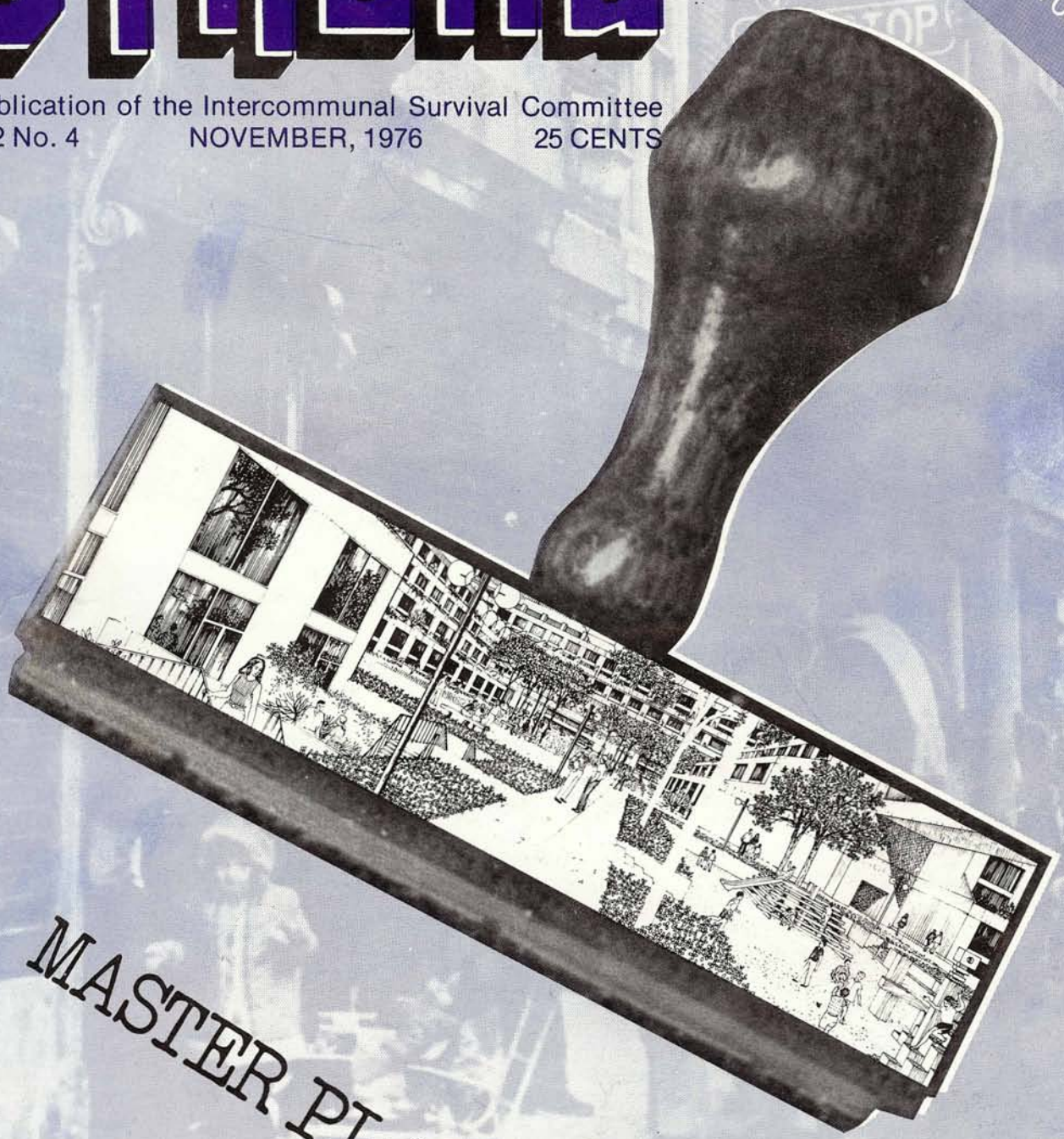
KEEP STRONG

- BPP's 10th Anniversary
- Union Chicago Style: IBEW 1031

A Publication of the Intercommunal Survival Committee
Vol. 2 No. 4 NOVEMBER, 1976 25 CENTS



MASTER PLAN

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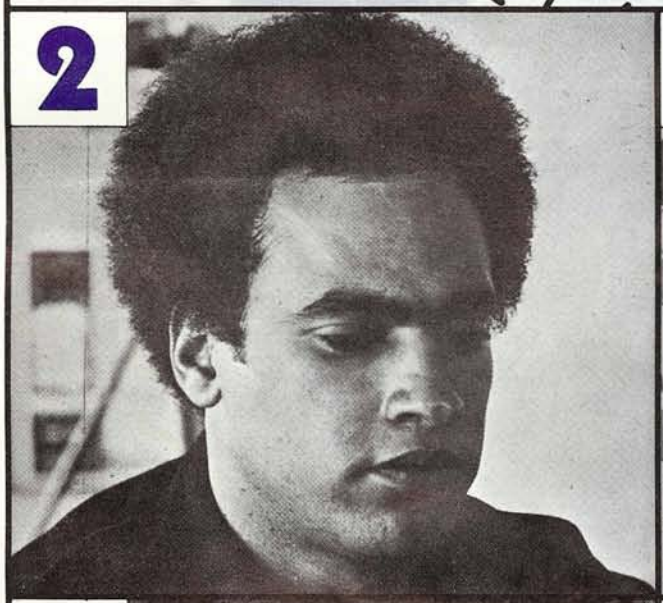

KEEP STRONG is published monthly by the Keep Strong Publishing Company, 1222 W. Wilson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60640 (312) 769-2087 Editor, Helen Shiller

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In This Issue

1. Masterplans, designed to destroy the potential for poor and oppressed people to seize control of the inner cities, are in the works for all major U.S. cities. See pages 19 and 21.

2. The Black Panther Party announces the return from exile of Huey P. Newton within a year as it celebrates its 10th anniversary. See page 30.

3. Miners and their widows testify about mining conditions that create black lung at hearings sponsored by the Chicago Area Black Lung Association. See page 24.

4. Lureida Torres, Puerto Rican Socialist Party member, is released from prison as demonstrations to free the five Puerto Rican Nationalist prisoners mount. See page 38.

5. Talented 15 year old "Little Fiddlin' Suzi Zarb" is a refreshing breath of air. See page 42.

EDITORIAL

Free Huey- Free Yourself!

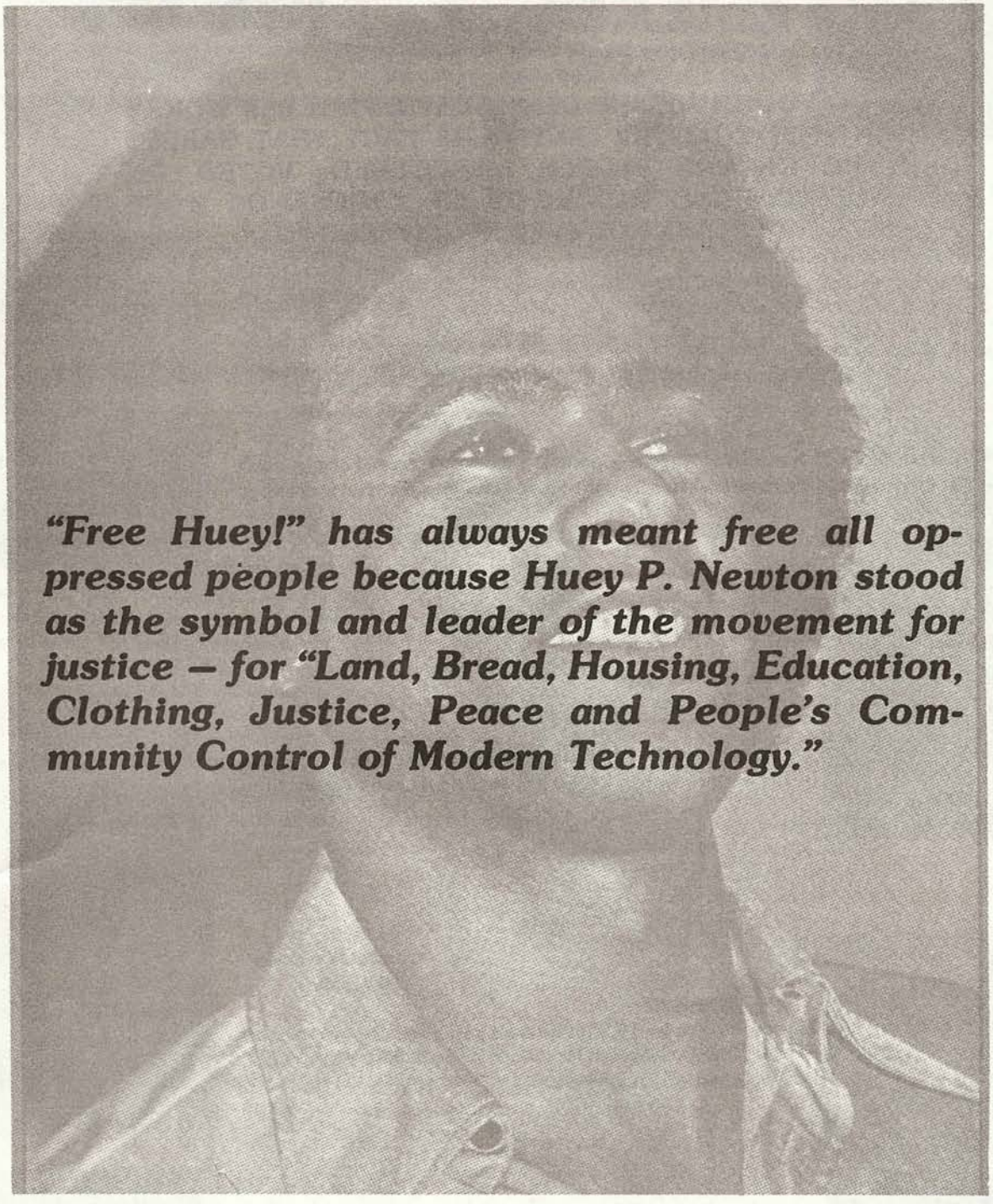
Now that the ridiculous elections are over and the next President of the United States has been elected because some people think he's the lesser of two evils, it is time to look at the things which will really have a significant effect on our lives. So it is worth paying attention to the fact that, for the first time in several years, organizations and people around the country are again saying "Free Huey!"

This month Elaine Brown announced that Huey P. Newton will return to this country from Cuba within the next year. The leader of the Black Panther Party has been exiled in Cuba following a campaign of attacks on his life and a complicated legal frame-up. Ms. Brown, Chairperson of the Party, stated that she believed he would not even have to stand trial following the revelations that would come from the soon-to-be-filed BPP lawsuit against the FBI, IRS, CIA and other government agencies. So, as nearly ten years ago when hundreds of thousands of people cried "Free Huey!" to help win his freedom from jail on a false charge that was dismissed after three hung juries, we are again saying "Free Huey!"

"Free Huey!" has always meant free all oppressed people because Huey P. Newton stood as the symbol and leader of the movement for justice — for "Land, Bread, Housing, Education, Clothing, Justice, Peace and People's Community Control of Modern Technology." And now that the people have exposed and seen exposed the lawlessness of the government attack on the Black Panther Party and other progressive organizations, it is possible not only to bring Huey P. Newton back to this country to work and live with us; it is possible for the entire movement to take a great leap forward.

As we are saying "Free Huey!" we are building a strong coalition to fight the masterplans in the cities, to fight to stay and get a decent life in the face of the city elite's urban renewal plans. Significantly, this month in Chicago, the formation of the coalition to fight the Chicago 21 Plan was announced, with its first action, a People's Tribunal, called for November 13.

The Intercommunal Survival Committee, following the leadership of the Black Panther Party in its 10th anniversary year, will continue to help build structures like the food co-operative, the tenants union and the Black Lung Association to guard the day to day survival of oppressed people. And from



"Free Huey!" has always meant free all oppressed people because Huey P. Newton stood as the symbol and leader of the movement for justice – for "Land, Bread, Housing, Education, Clothing, Justice, Peace and People's Community Control of Modern Technology."

these survival structures a new offensive is building. Together we will build a movement that will bring Huey P. Newton back safely to this country and that will challenge the "masterplans" of the rich and powerful to deny us our basic survival rights, to mobilize White against Black and to drive us from the cities where we have great potential, although unorganized, political power. We, together, will "Free Huey" and "Free Ourselves."□

ON THE STREET

"DO YOU THINK THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WORKS IN THIS COUNTRY GIVEN THE FACT THAT BARELY 55% OF THE PEOPLE REGISTERED, VOTED ON TUESDAY AND HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS MORE ARE NOT EVEN REGISTERED."

Peggy Todd
N. Beacon

"No, it's not working, if there is 50% of the people who won't vote. People don't care. It's just gotten where they feel they're getting rooked anyway. It's a crooked system."

Rosalind Doughty
W. Sunnyside

"No, not really; democracy is the people's choice, whatever people want, but what the people want, they're not getting. It can't be working."

Charlotte Gaevin
N. Magnolia

"No, I don't; my son here is just going to be 19, and he isn't going to vote because he doesn't know anyone to vote for. One is as bad as the other. He feels like why should he even bother to go. (I work at the polls myself so.)"

Marty Jordan
W. Agatite

"Historically the franchise wasn't given to everyone. Only people who had a stake in the government were allowed to vote. You could make an analogy that that's what is going on now—only 50% voting. I'm not satisfied with only 50% voting. What are you going to do?"

Jine Wilkie
N. Sheridan

"Well, not exactly; I really can't say because I don't live within the realms of the Democratic or Republican. I'm too liberated my own self to live within that. I don't even vote myself unless I particularly know this person, know what they're all about, because comments on television ain't nothing if you know what they're all about. Then I think you should vote for them. You shouldn't even have any system like that."

Francis Jailawi
N. Clarendon

"I don't think it's working very well. I don't see where there is much difference between the contenders from the two parties. I honestly don't."

Denise Fearman
N. Clarendon

"No, not when the majority of people aren't voting. Then how can the system of democracy be working? Well, democracy is the voice of the people, right ? If all the people aren't speaking their voice, then the government or maybe the people have lost interest, for various reasons."

Cheryl Hauschild
N. Kenmore

"Not really, no."

Nora Ratliff
W. Sunnyside

"That's a good question. It's a hard one to answer. I know I'm not voting because of the way the government is today; the way it's been in the past. Well, just look around you—right now, like the scandals. Nixon was in a scandal. You don't know who to trust anymore."

Georgia Coles
N. Kenmore

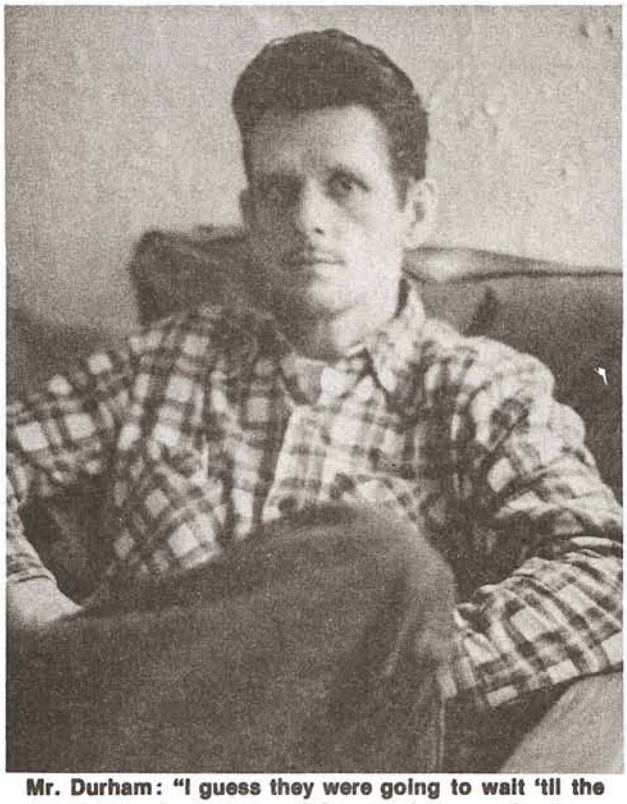
"You really want an answer to that? No, I don't believe it does."

WELFARE RIGHTS

No Notice Of Denial = Administrative Cuts

Gene Durham, an Uptown resident, became disabled and was put on total disability years ago when it was a state program. When the state transferred all the disability cases in January, 1974 to the then new federal SSI program, his case was transferred along with the others.

In March, 1976 he got a notice from SSI to come to the social security office within 10 to 30 days. On April 1 he didn't receive his check so he went to the office, still within the 10 to 30 day period. They informed him that he was cut off of SSI because he was actually eligible for Social Security Disability payments which would mean more money for him. They had the papers all ready for him so he applied that day. Then they sent him over to public aid to sign up for general assistance to tide him over until his social security came through.



Mr. Durham: "I guess they were going to wait 'til the six months was up and then send me a notice."

He never heard any more from them, but in May he went in with some of his check stubs documenting his work record. He called once after that, and they claimed he had no record.

In late October, he was advised by a friend to go to the 46th Ward Community Service Center. An advocate went back to the social security office with him. They found out that his social security claim had been denied on June 23, 1976 for medical reasons. Noting that almost every SSI or social security claim of any kind is automatically denied without a real look at the claimant's medical records until a reconsideration of the claim is requested, the Service Center worker advised Mr. Durham to put in an appeal immediately. He had received no notice of the denial. He also found out at that time that there is a six month period within which to appeal. By this time four months had passed. Mr. Durham said, "I guess they were going to wait 'til the six months was up and then send me a notice."□

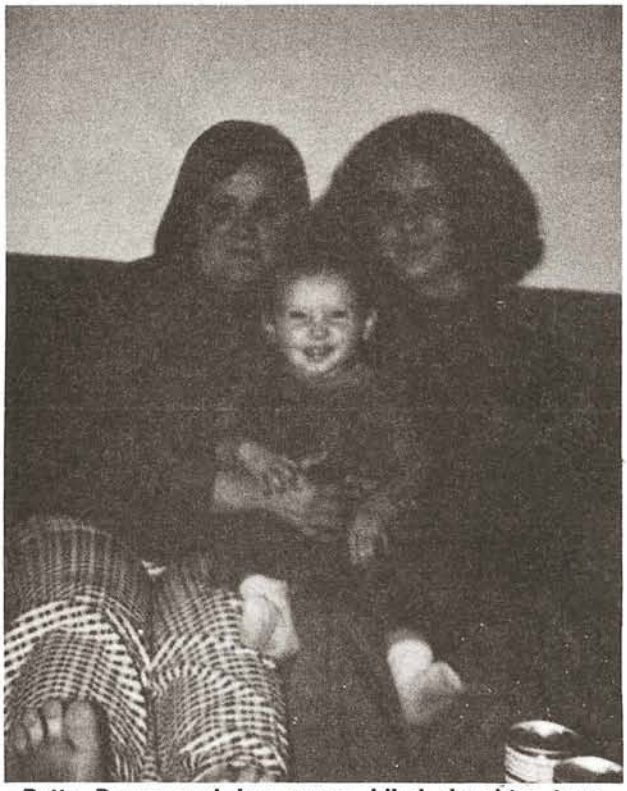
Milwaukee GA Slights Blind Child

"Every aged, blind, or disabled individual who is determined . . . to be eligible on the basis of his income and resources shall, in accordance with and subject to the provisions of this title, be paid benefits by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare." Title XVI of the Social Security Act.

Betty Draper of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, would like to work and support herself and her one year old daughter, Corina, but because Corina is 80 percent blind, she cannot afford the expensive child care necessary to give her proper attention. So, Ms. Draper stays home, caring for and training Corina herself.

Because Corina is blind, Ms. Draper is eligible for the Supplemental Security Income Program (SSI) of the Social Security Administration. Her monthly check is $234. The Milwaukee County Department of Public Welfare supplements their income through its General Assistance Program, so that Ms. Draper and her daughter receive approximately $300 per month.

When the larger SSI check did not arrive in the beginning of October when it was expected, Ms. Draper informed the local social security office.



Betty Draper and her young blind daughter have received little help from state and federal agencies.

They told her that a new check would be issued, and she could expect to receive it on the 19th of the month. When she explained that the money was needed before that, she was told that that would be impossible. Relying on their friends and neighbors, holding off the landlord, Ms. Draper and Corina scraped, ate little and survived until the 19th.

When the check failed to arrive on the 19th, Ms. Draper called the social security office. They told her that the check had probably been stolen and would have to be traced. This, they said, would take three to four months. She took her case to the County Department of Public Welfare, and they gave her some zero purchase food stamps. Again she explained that the rent was behind, that the landlord had threatened to put her and Corina out and that many of the things she needed for the child and the house (dish and laundry soap, pampers, shoes) could not be purchased with food stamps. They told her that there was nothing they could do.

Receiving no help from state and federal agencies, Ms. Draper finally turned to the Welfare Defense Program of the Intercommunal Survival Committee, which has attempted to get the things that she needs. The Drapers have no choice but to continue to struggle to survive. But the inhumanity of her predicament was well stated when a neighbor pointed out, "If the federal program that was intended to help in this kind of situation turns its back, then who can be expected to take an interest and provide for the needs of the family?"□

TENANTS' RIGHTS

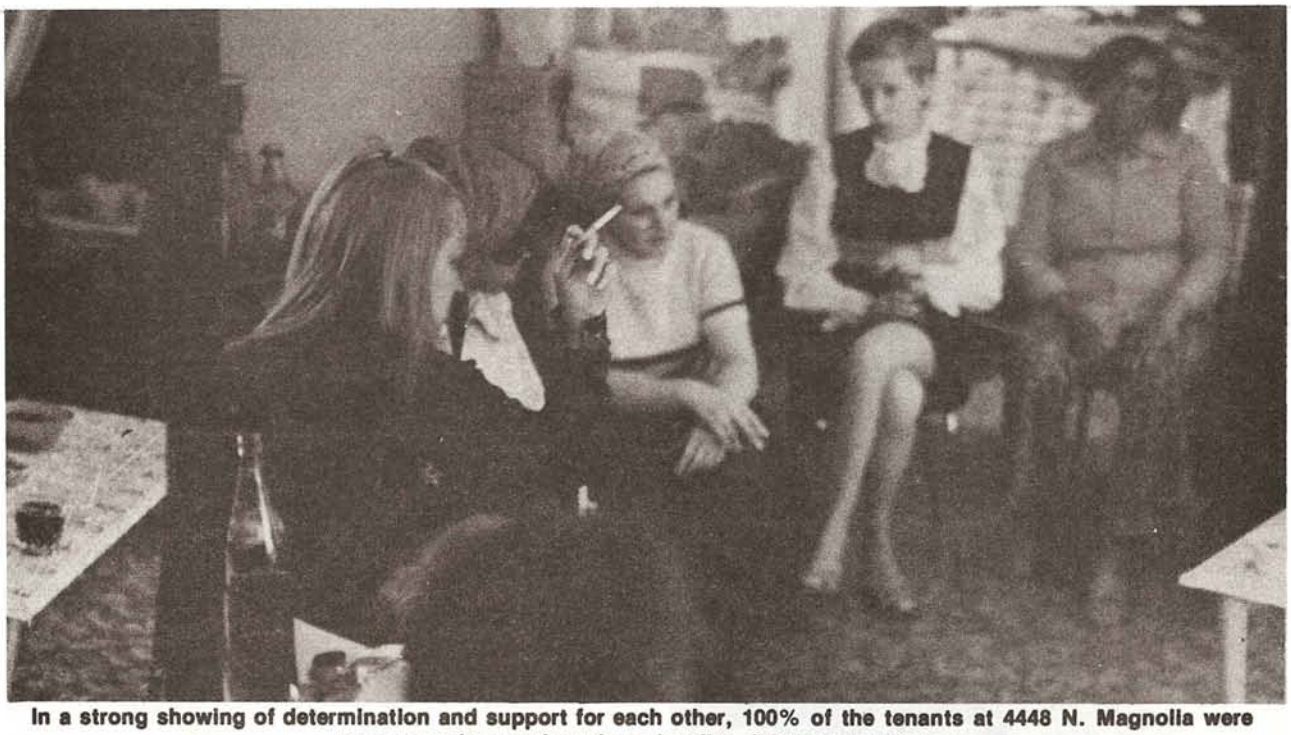
Campaign To Save Uptown Buildings Grows

In response to a call by the Uptown Tenants Survival Union in September to step up the community campaign to save every remaining building in Uptown, tenants have undertaken a series of actions, determined to win the right to live in decent housing. Aware of the city's "masterplan" to drive Black and poor people out of the inner city of Chicago, spokespersons for the Uptown Tenants Survival Union have vowed to try every legal means at their disposal to save the Uptown community for the low-income people who now live there. Following, KEEP STRONG *presents a summary of some of the recent struggles for decent housing which have been initiated by tenants in Uptown.*

4448 N. MAGNOLIA

In early October, two tenants of this building, members of the UTSU, reported that their living situation was becoming increasingly more desperate. They said that as of October 15 the heating unit still was not on and that there was no hot water. It was also reported that because of lack of payment to the utility companies by the landlord the gas and electricity were about to be cut off. Immediate action was taken to prevent cut off of these vital services and to force the landlord to pay his bills. An emergency tenants meeting was called for the following evening.

In a strong showing of determination and support for each other, 100% of the tenants were present at the meeting where they listed their main complaints about the building. These included: no heat, lack of safe electrical wiring throughout the building, broken toilets and bath tubs in almost all of the apartments, broken windows, and cockroaches and mice throughout the building. The tenants agreed to first meet

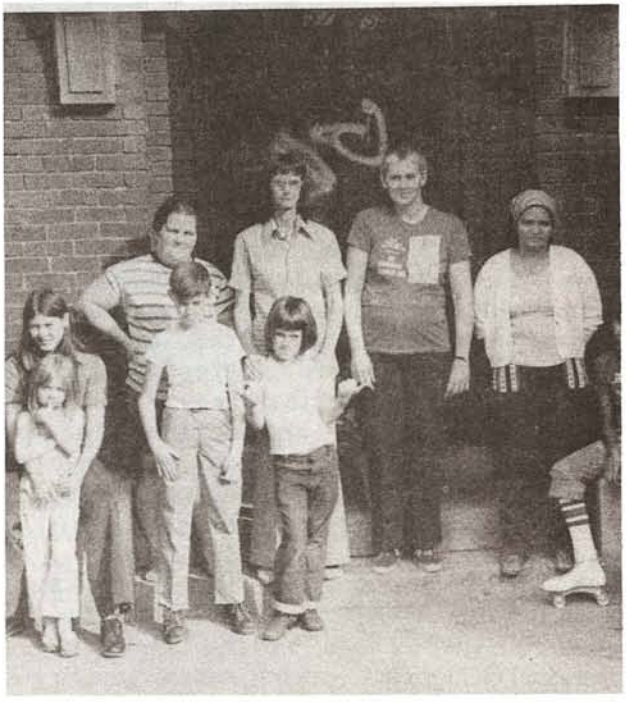


In a strong showing of determination and support for each other, 100% of the tenants at 4448 N. Magnolia were present at the meeting where they listed their complaints.

with the landlord to work out an acceptable timetable for correction of some of these problems. However, it was subsequently learned that in response to the show of unity and strength by the tenants, the landlord sold the building on a contract sale. The tenants then held an emergency meeting and decided that they would withhold their rent, putting it in an escrow account until the new owner met with legal representatives of the Uptown Tenants Survival Union to prove ownership and clarify the legal status of the building, and until some agreement could be worked out as to when repairs would begin. If there is no immediate response, the tenants are prepared to use this money to make their own repairs so that the building will become livable.

4451-57 N. MALDEN

In a building which many people in Uptown view as crucial to save (see *KEEP STRONG*; Vol. 2, no. 3) because of its location, size and availability to large families, an already complicated situation has become even more complex. In addition to the fact that the building is becoming increasingly unlivable because of plumbing, electrical and heating problems coupled with the fact that the present owner claims he is broke and cannot make any repairs, the latest development is that a Mr. Noble, seemingly a prior owner of the property, has filed a foreclosure suit (an action to get the building back into his name) against the present owners and the tenants. According to the legal staff of UTSU, the only reason the foreclosure suit would include the tenants would be because Noble intends to evict all of the tenants once he is able to get the building back, an action which is just one more ploy used to drive tenants from their homes. The tenants have filed a motion of intervention with the courts which will give them



Tenants at 4451-57 N. Malden have filed a motion with the courts to give them the right to participate in all legal proceedings.

the right to participate directly in all legal proceedings from the point of view of their own interests. The legal staff of UTSU is now researching ways to insure that no matter what legal action is taken by the courts, the rights of the tenants will be protected, and no one will be forced to move.

4447-57 N. MAGNOLIA

In another successful action by the tenants of this building (in the past they have won struggles with CHA around lease renewals, in the criminal housing courts around the question of habitability, and have worked with the landlord to correct 36 building code violations in one week's time) were able to get the entire 26 unit building completely exterminated for cockroaches. The extensive extermination plan agreed on between the tenants and the landlord calls for this process to be repeated every three weeks until the cockroaches are completely eliminated. In addition the tenants have requested that all of the outside doors be secured and that the landlord be required to make periodic reviews of the building with the tenants to correct any newly developed problems. These last two demands are presently being negotiated with the landlord.

4416-22 N. MAGNOLIA

In perhaps one of the more important legal actions undertaken by UTSU, tenants Florence Buchner and Myra Solarzano have threatened to file a damage suit against the owner, Mr. Gorlo, for illegal evictions based on a violation of their civil rights. It is a question of whether or not a tenant has the right to organize to improve his or her living situation. Another important factor in this case is that it directly involves the Chicago Housing Authority's Section 8 leasing program. The issue is whether a tenant who has been accepted by CHA under its guidelines for the leasing program can be arbitrarily denied tenancy in a CHA approved building because of his or her political beliefs or involvement in organizing other tenants to force the landlord to follow the law. Both Ms. Buchner and Ms. Solarzano have been very active in the tenants' struggles in this building. It is because of their activities that they have been labeled "trouble makers" and denied lease renewals by Mr. Gorlo even though CHA had approved these renewals.

Commenting on the general situation, a spokesperson of the Uptown Tenants Survival Union stated, "We are committed to become actively involved in every building in Uptown, if necessary. We have gotten commitments from

Because of their active role in tenants' struggles at 4416-22 N. Magnolia, Myra Solarzano (left) and Florence Buchner (right) have been labeled "trouble makers" and denied lease renewals.

other community organizations and individuals to assist us in this. We plan on making it known to all landlords and developers that we are not going to leave this community, nor are we going to be forced out without a fight. Any building owner who does not plan on maintaining decent housing fit for the shelter of human beings, will have to face the wrath of the people, organized to save this community and its housing by any means necessary."□

POLICE WATCH

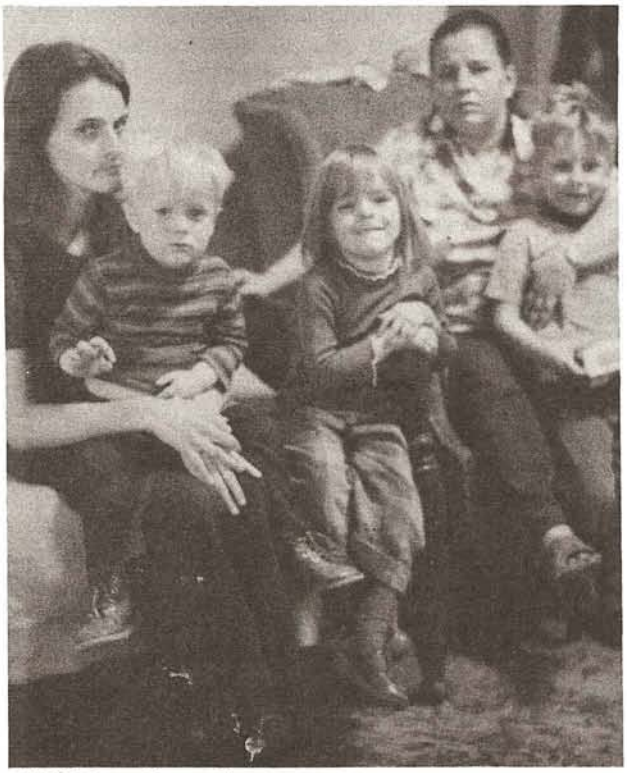
911: It's Going To Take More Than A Three Digit Number

On September 15, 1976 both the Chicago Police and Fire Departments jointly began using 911 as their new emergency phone number. The three digit number is supposed to be quicker to dial and the system better organized so as to produce speedier answers to calls. Following a recent

incident in Uptown, one community resident stated, "They have a new number, but it's the same old police."

Ms. May Page, 53, and a long time resident of the Uptown community, has a heart condition which when she has a spasm leaves her dizzy and liable to black out. On the afternoon of October 27 a spasm caught her at the top of a flight of stairs, and she fell down them to the tiled entrance hall floor. She was hurt badly and had cuts on her head that began to bleed heavily. Neighbors ran to her aid and called the 911 number. While waiting for an ambulance Ms. Page began to seizure.

The neighbors estimate that it took the police and fire departments some 30 minutes to arrive. The police arrived in a paddy wagon and the fire dept. in an ambulance. Ms. Page who was in no shape to talk and half unconscious was immediately asked by the police what she had been drinking. She told them she had had nothing to drink. Neighbors in the building, Garnetta Schaffer and Nancy Bowling report it was obvious they assumed she was just drunk. Ms. Bowling remembers, "We told them to hurry up and get her to a hospital, that she was hurt. You could see that. They told us to shut up! It took them 20-30 minutes to finally take her out!"



Neighbors Nancy Bowling and Garnetta Schaffer: "We told them to hurry up and get her to a hospital. They told us to shut up! It took them 20-30 minutes to finally take her out!"

Ms. Schaffer told *KEEP STRONG* the police ended up taking her in the paddy wagon even though a fire dept. ambulance was there. "They just put her on a stretcher without tying her on or putting a cover on her and threw her into the paddy wagon like she was a piece of meat." Ms. Page didn't recall that she had ridden in a paddy wagon to the hospital. When told that she had, she said, "That's the first time in my life I've ever ridden in a paddy wagon."

Ms. Page received four stitches in her head, a black eye, severe bruises and has been unable to walk on her left leg since the incident happened. She felt the police "acted pretty dirty. The whole outfit was real snotty." Evidently it's going to take more than a three digit number to straighten out the problems of the Chicago Police and Fire Departments when they work in the oppressed community.□

Two Police Convicted In Brutality Case

Two White Chicago police officers have been found guilty in federal court in a case involving the brutal beating of a liquor store owner on the southside four years ago. The victim, Richard Leftridge, lost his left eye as a result of the beating when four police officers from the Kensington District answered a landlord-tenant dispute on February 25, 1972. Officer Daniel Matejko was convicted both of violating Leftridge's civil rights and of lying to a federal grand jury about the incident. Officer James Amendola was convicted of perjury but acquitted of the civil rights charge.

Key evidence in the conviction of the suspended officers was testimony by a Black officer, Victor T. Howard, who witnessed the beating of Leftridge on the night of Feb. 25. On that evening Howard and another officer, Robert Smith, initially answered a call to the apartment of LaVella Rogers, a friend of Leftridge, to settle a dispute between Ms. Rogers and the landlady. Although Howard and Smith calmed the situation, the landlady called police again because Ms. Rogers allegedly threatened her life. According to testimony, four other police, including Matejko and Amendola, arrived. Matejko argued with Ms. Rogers, struck her on the head and shouted racial slurs. When Leftridge tried to defend her, Matejko knocked him on the floor, brutally

beating and kicking him. During the beating Matejko hit Leftridge across the left eye with his club. The eye was irreparably damaged and surgically removed.

Leftridge filed a $3 million lawsuit against the city and the four officers for violating his civil rights. He received a $75,000 out of court settlement. Officer Howard initially withheld his testimony about witnessing Matejko beating Leftridge and striking his eye because he "feared for his life." However after overhearing two of

Matejko, found guilty in beating.

the defendants discussing what Leftridge might get out of the settlement ("He'll be lucky if he gets a seeing eye dog and a cane"), he decided to come forward and tell the truth about the brutal beating.

In a statement to the jury after the verdict, U.S. Attorney Sam Skinner who prosecuted the police praised Officer Howard for the courage he displayed in breaking the "code of silence" between police officers which characterizes the Chicago Police Department and covers up so much police misconduct. Skinner also warned the police "that you can't abuse and beat and maim citizens and get away with it."

Judge Grady set December 1 for sentencing the two convicted officers. They face maximum sentences of one year and $1,000 fine for the civil rights violation and five years and $2,000 fine for conviction of perjury.□

Spy Files Destroyed By Chicago Police

The Chicago Police Department has admitted to destroying intelligence files kept on 105,000 individuals and 1,300 organizations after they learned through an informant that the Alliance to End Repression planned to file a lawsuit against the department's intelligence division, known as the red squad. The lawsuit, filed in 1974, alleges that spying on persons because of their political beliefs is unconstitutional.

In addition, court files now made public show that the police destroyed records containing the names of 220 informants and details about how intelligence information was passed on to non-law enforcement agencies. These files have been opened to the public under an October 14 decision by U.S. District Court Judge Alfred Kirkland, partially removing a gag order on thousands of documents turned over to lawyers in the Alliance-ACLU class action suit against the red

A year ago, a Special Cook County Grand Jury issued a report documenting how Chicago police illegally spied on activists who had publicly criticized them and Mayor Daley.

squad.

The recently opened files also show an internal Chicago Police Department memo in which the police admit they kept files on thousands of people because of their political beliefs. They passed that information routinely to other agencies such as the State Department, the Department of Urban Renewal and the U.S. Civil Service Commission. It has been revealed that virtually every applicant for a federal job who lived in Chicago was checked with the red squad. According to the memo, the police knew that much of the information collected was ambiguous and unreliable. These files were burned almost immediately after the Alliance filed its lawsuit in November, 1974.

Lawyers for the Alliance currently have a motion before the judge for sanctions against the city for destroying the files. They want the court to prohibit the defendants from challenging allegations that the lost files might have proven —e.g., that information from the files was improperly passed on to other agencies.

Judge Kirkland's Oct. 14 ruling allows lawyers and plaintiffs in the lawsuit to release only personal information. There is still a gag order on any information in the files which describes how the red squad operates. According to Kirkland, to release *that* information to the public would "effectively destroy the information-gathering system." Until the court rules on the constitutionality of police intelligence activities, Kirkland says, the courts should protect that system.

It has been a year since a Cook County Grand Jury issued its special report on police spying in Chicago (see *KEEP STRONG*, Dec., 1975). In that report, issued Nov. 10, 1975, the grand jury documented how the Chicago Police Department illegally spied on and committed illegal acts against predominantly Black groups and activists who had publicly criticized it and Mayor Daley.

While the grand jury recommended that action be taken by the Illinois legislature and the courts to limit police spying and establish guidelines for police personnel and intelligence files, one year later nothing has been done to stop political surveillance and harassment.

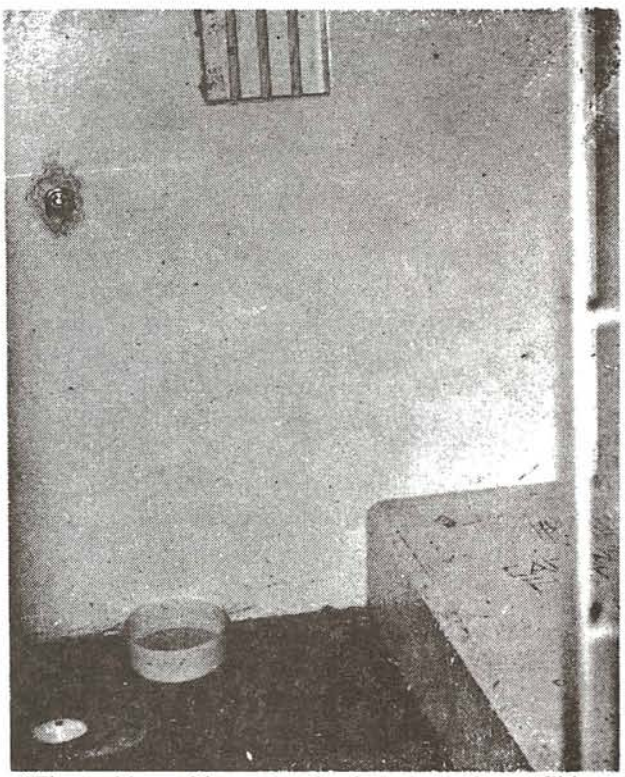
But the gradual opening up to the public of the red squad files, the continued revelations in the Fred Hampton trial and recent evidence of Chicago Police Department collaboration with right-wing groups like the KKK and Nazis show the extent to which this city and government will go to prevent Black, oppressed and progressive people from organizing for social justice. The conclusions of the grand jury one year ago still remain: Chicago is "but a short journey to a police state."□

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

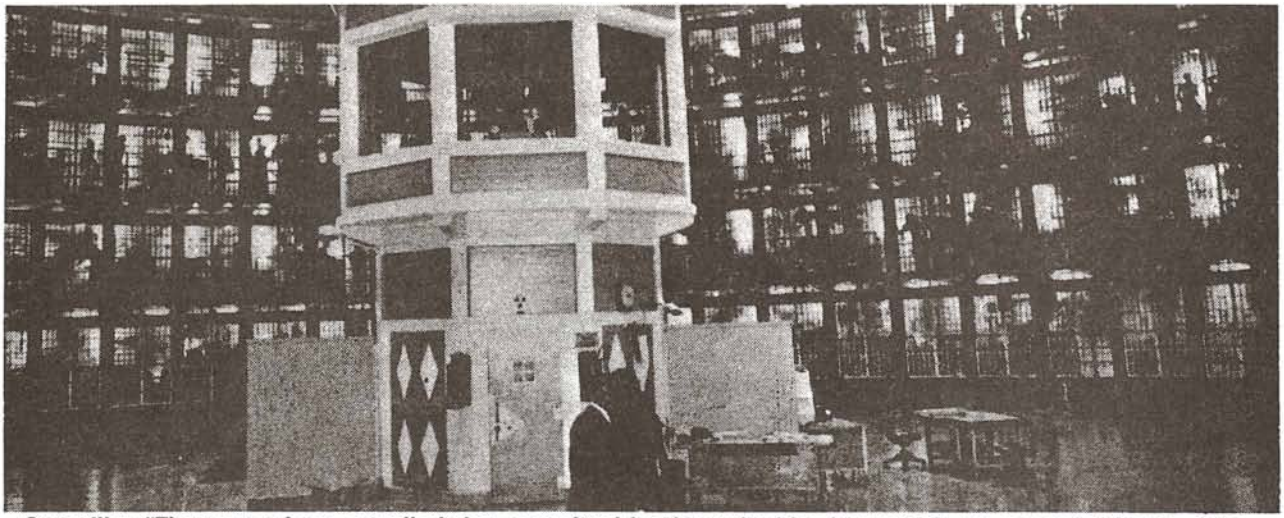
Stateville: "There Are Crimes Being Committed Here."

KEEP STRONG *has often recorded observations made by others of Illinois' Stateville Prison. Following are exceprts of a letter received by* KEEP STRONG *from an inmate presently incarcerated there.*

"There are crimes actually being committed by the authorities here which are concealed by the false pretenses of 'maintaining security.' The segregation unit is on the west side of B-House. After seeing the adjustment committee an



"The problem with segregation is you are given a filthy, stained mattress, sometimes no blanket; and when you get one it's filthy and very rarely has any sheets."



Stateville: "There are crimes actually being committed by the authorities here which are concealed by the false pretenses of 'maintaining security.'"

inmate is sent to 9 gallery of B-west. There he is placed in a cell with one, maybe two, and if it is still like it was when I was over there, sometimes you may end up in a cell four men deep. After ten days there you are either released and sent back to your assignment or continue in segregation, in most cases for an additional 30 days. So, after ten days on 9 gallery, you're placed on 7, 5, 3 or 1 gallery which are all single man cells.

"The problem with segregation is you are given a filthy, stained mattress, sometimes no blanket, and when you get one it's filthy and very rarely has any sheets. On Tuesdays or Wednesdays the sheets are sent to the laundry in the morning, and about 1 p.m. they're passed out again to the people who turned them in. I asked the officer who was passing them out the first time I was in segregation if I could have one. He told me 'no' because I didn't turn any in. I told him that I hadn't any to turn in, and he sarcastically said, "Well, that's your problem.' I finally had a few friends of mine — cell house workers, inmates — to steal me two because the only way you can get them is to steal them.

"A person on segregation is supposed to get a shower at least once a week and yard once a week. I was on segregation 2½ months and got only three showers the entire time I was there. I never went to the yard. It's a hassle for the officers to take an inmate from segregation over there because they have to put handcuffs and safety belts on you and stay with you. That's for visits, shower, yard, sick call, any place you might have to go while on segregation. So, in order not to have to hassle with yard, they set you up to have it taken away from you.

"This is where the official misconduct comes in, because the officers do things like while passing food out on paper plates to each cell, if they run out of anything, most of the time they won't send to the kitchen for more. But the biggest catch is that at every meal, coffee or tea or something will be brought to drink, but they won't pass it out, so the inmates begin yelling and banging on the bars with metal cups asking for what we're supposed to have 'by law.' The officers wait for this because this is when they stand on the flag (first floor) and write violations on everyone who is banging and making noise.

"The violation usually reads: 'Creating a disturbance; inciting a riot; or disrespectful to officers which if it were really true constitutes a bad infraction and should be interviewed by the program team which is a similitude of a minor traffic court. This program team after interviewing you will find you guilty in most cases and take 120 days yard, 120 days commissary, etc. You are only supposed to get yard once a week; in essence the 120 days virtually means 120 weeks — the same with the commissary.

"You're told to fill out a grievance about any decision you are not satisfied with, but after you've filed a grievance it takes 10-14 days before the inquiry board sees you, and after they've seen you your reply doesn't come back to you until in most cases 30 days after the interview, so that's 40-44 days after the violation you are contesting. After being on segregation without any further violations in most cases you are released in 30-40 days. Even if you've won the grievance which is rare you've already done the seg time and have been humiliated, lost your assignment, your personal property and a host of other things. In the event that you've lost the grievance you can appeal to Springfield, Depart-

ment of Corrections, which will take an additional 30-40 days.

"There was a time when Springfield would review your case, and if there was any doubt as to the validity of the violation in view they would reverse the institution's decision, reinstate your assignment or whatever you had before the violation. But, the institution found a way to get around that. They violate their own administrative regulations so much, plus they violate the state and federal law so much that many people file grievances. Because the Springfield Review Board has so many people to see on the day they come here, it's just impossible to hear them properly. They rely on the institution to supply them with information. Naturally you can't win if the institution has anything to do with it because if you could have won you wouldn't have had to take it to Springfield in the first place.

"Today, my cell mate and I were in our cell talking with the Christian Science practitioner who makes the rounds several times a week. It was about 9:30 a.m., and the officer came by letting people out for breakfast. He asked my cellie and myself if we had shirts or jackets. We answered "yes," and he said that we couldn't eat breakfast for not being ready. That officer violated the law right then but he told us that he had just been around 15 minutes before, telling everyone to be ready. Firstly, we don't eat the same time every day so you never know what gallery will eat first. Secondly, the practitioner told another officer that we had been talking to him for one-half hour, and he himself knows no officer came by previous to that time. At any rate we still couldn't get our food and besides that had a violation report written for 'not being ready for breakfast.' There's no such violation in the books."□

EDUCATION

Reading Score Results Raise Doubts

While recently disclosed reading scores of Chicago's elementary school children have been questioned by some teachers and other interested persons as being rigged and misleading, community residents and parents in Uptown have initiated a task force to insure a decent education for their children. Feeling left in the lurch and tired of being powerlessly caught in an educational process which commits their children to a deadly system that continues to dampen their natural desire to learn, over 100 parents attended a recent Community Forum which focused on education, held by the Intercommunal Survival Committee. Foremost on the minds of parents as well as the school children was reading, and the fact that the children are not really funtionally learning how to read.

Stockton School, located in the midst of the Uptown community, has long been touted by local politicians as a well-endowed school with unusual opportunities for the low-income children in its district. Stockton has for the last ten years received federal funds designated for special programs, not available to many other schools. But reading scores at Stockton fell since the results were last recorded one year ago.

Joan Arai Middle School (previously known as the Hazel-Wilson Middle School) was recently built for the Uptown community and has been praised as a showcase by local politicians and especially 46th Ward Ald. Chris Cohen who likes to take credit for its construction. But this school,

Reading scores at Stockton School have fallen since the results were last recorded one year ago.

According to Board of Education figures, twice as much money per student goes into Disney than other schools in this area. Reading scores are also higher.

a beautiful facility, is already overcrowed and has suffered consistently since it was opened a year ago September from lack of books, equipment for the gym, doors for the lockers by the swimming pool, so that the full use of its facilities (and in some cases like the swimming pool, any use at all) has been impossible.

Some community activists have raised doubts about the value of building these new modern facilities while *not* providing the funds to take full advantage of them. Many low-income parents question if these new schools are really intended for their children or just drawing cards for middle and upper-income families being encouraged to move back into the city's many urban renewed areas. "They've built this new college up here and down the street a new middle school, but our homes keep getting torn down. There doesn't seem to be any improvement as far as the education our children are getting. I think they're just moving us out as fast as they can," said one forum participant.

And then there is the Disney School, built in the early '70s after the alderman called his father in Washington to get him the federal funds and the clout necessary to build this multi-faceted "model" school designated for his community. According to Board of Education figures, twice as much money per student goes into Disney as to any of the other schools in the area. Reading scores at Disney are substantially higher than all other schools in the area, and twice as high in many cases. A very small number of children from Uptown are allowed to attend.

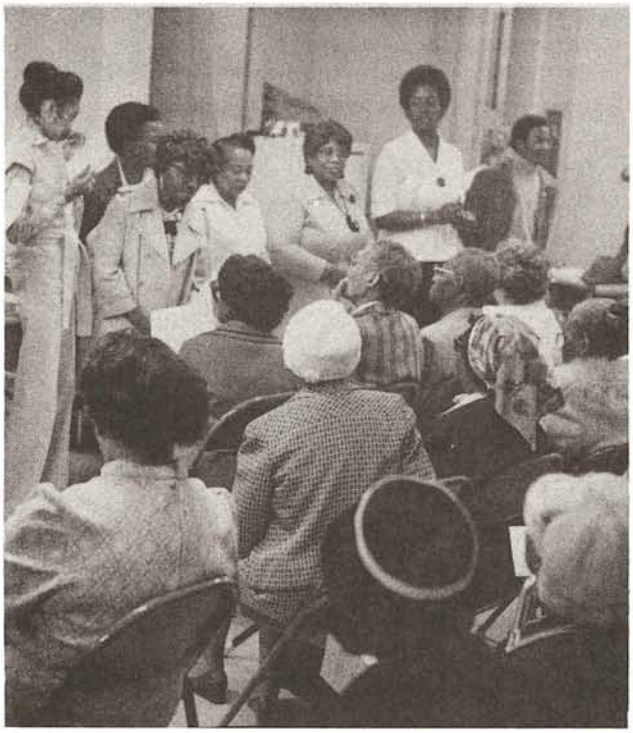
Meanwhile the school board recently announced plans to build nine new elementary schools to relieve the problem of overcrowding. Three of these are in the Marquette Park/North Englewood area. All are being projected as a "cure" to the problem of overcrowding. The three new schools are intended to relieve overcrowding in Earle, O'Toole and Raster elementary schools. Each of these three schools is just over a mile from another elementary school that is underattended. As would be expected, the reading scores at the overcrowded Black schools are among the lowest in the city. Those at the underattended White schools are higher, although nothing to get excited about. The question raised by many is: Why can't all the money being spent on construction go into the classrooms in the oppressed community where we need it the most?" The answer suggested by many is: "Because those who are drawing up the plans and allocating the money figure that the poor will move out and disappear."□

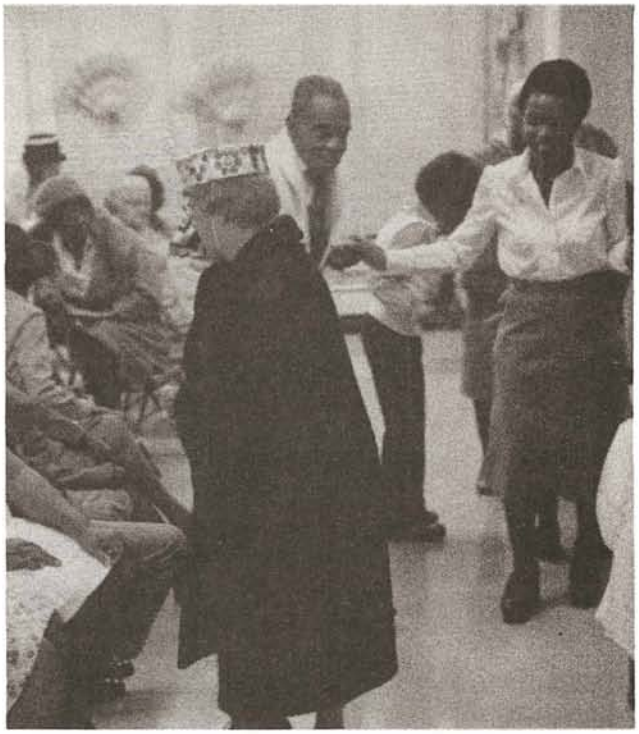
HEALTH NEWS

Flannery Health Care Center: "Seniors In Unity For Survival"

On Saturday, October 30, 1976 over 100 seniors from the Flannery Senior Apartments joined with members of the staff and board of the Flannery Senior Health Care Center in a celebration of "Unity for Survival." Held at the Center at 1507 N. Clybourn, #205, the event marked the 8th year of a community-based struggle to build and develop a comprehensive multi-service health center for senior citizens.

Highlighting the celebration was a brief appearance by U.S. Congresswoman Cardiss Collins who arrived to receive an award of recognition from the seniors for her accomplishments and efforts while serving as representative of the U.S. 7th Congressional District. Also





The "Unity for Survival" celebration at Flannery Senior Health Care Center featured an enjoyable and educational program, a delicious home-cooked meal, live music and spirited dancing.

featured in the program were speakers from the staff, advisory board and the Flannery Senior Apartments. A delicious home-cooked meal of roast beef, corned beef, salad, cake and punch was followed by live music and spirited dancing, enjoyed by all.

The main theme of "Seniors in Unity for Survival" was that for eight years the seniors at Flannery have struggled to maintain a health program organized and operated by the seniors themselves. Committed to the emotional, physical and spiritual well-being of the seniors, the Center provides a comprehensive program which the seniors can take pride in (see *KEEP STRONG*, July, 1976). In addition to daily medical services including diabetes testing, blood pressure screening and a foot doctor, a variety of social services are offered. These include a telephone crisis hotline, food stamp, social security, SSI and legal counseling. In addition, the Center sponsors the Omega Food Co-op and special events — trips, plays and conferences.

Despite the residents' efforts to secure consistent quality medical support, there has been little commitment from the public and private medical institutions in the Chicago area. According to spokespersons from Flannery, in eight years there have been three different medical institutions which have been in and out of the clinic with limited involvement. Lack of commitment and follow-through by these institutions has resulted in a serious lapse in services despite determined efforts by the seniors to keep the Center's programs going.

Marion Stamps, advisory board member to the Health Center and progressive executive director of CHTO (Chicago Housing Tenants Organization) praised the seniors at the celebration for their determination since the beginning. The Center is guided by the principle that seniors and all people have "the right to design and control the kind and quality of health care services they receive." But only through unity can they demand and win the resources and support necessary for the Center's development and growth.□

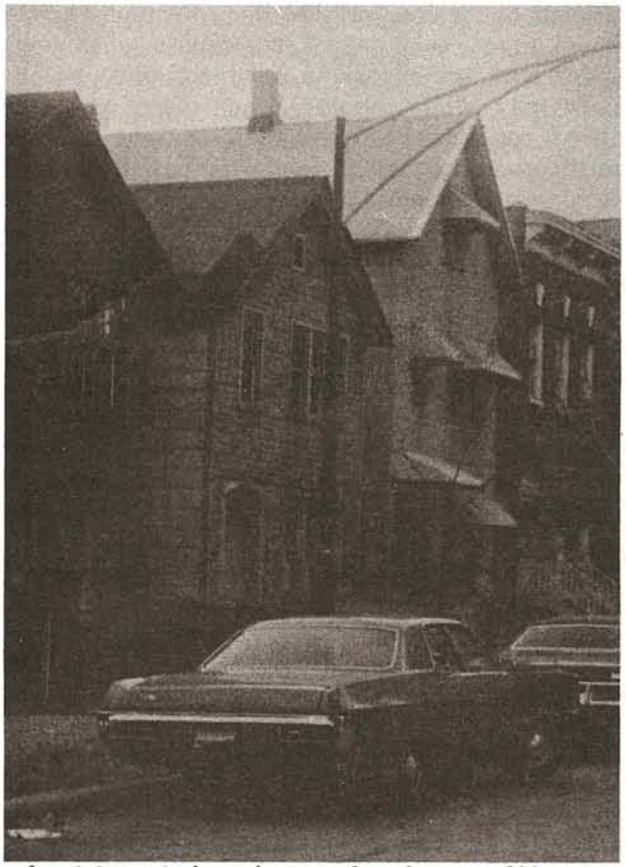
FIGHTING CITY HALL

City Conspires To Destroy Homes On Near Northside

Recent investigation by the Tranquility Housing Coalition which includes representatives from the Tranquility Memorial Community

Organization, concerned citizens, tenants, and home and property owners who live in the two block area between North Ave., Blackhawk, Larrabee, and Mohawk, reveals a conscious plan by Alderman Burton Natarus and the Dept. of Urban Renewal to destroy homes there and redevelop the site as "Project Mohawk". The redevelopment project is part of the controversial Chicago 21 Plan which threatens to drive Black and poor people from communities like the near northside.

Research shows that federal guidelines for citizen participation have been violated since no public hearing was held by the Dept. of Urban Renewal, the city council or the alderman to inform residents of the redevelopment plans. When community residents finally learned of the city's plans and began to attend the hearings at D.U.R., Alderman Natarus went ahead and met with private businessmen in the area to make some "deals" on how they could save their property. These meetings went on without the participation of the residents whose homes are at stake. As part of Project Mohawk, the Isham YMCA has plans to build an expanded facility.



A statement issued recently charges Alderman Natarus, the city council, D.U.R., the Isham YMCA and Mayor Daley with plotting to destroy low-income housing and drive the Black and oppressed community out.

As part of "Project Mohawk" the Isham YMCA has plans to build an expanded facility.

Funds for the new building have come from private corporations including $500,000 from Montgomery Ward.

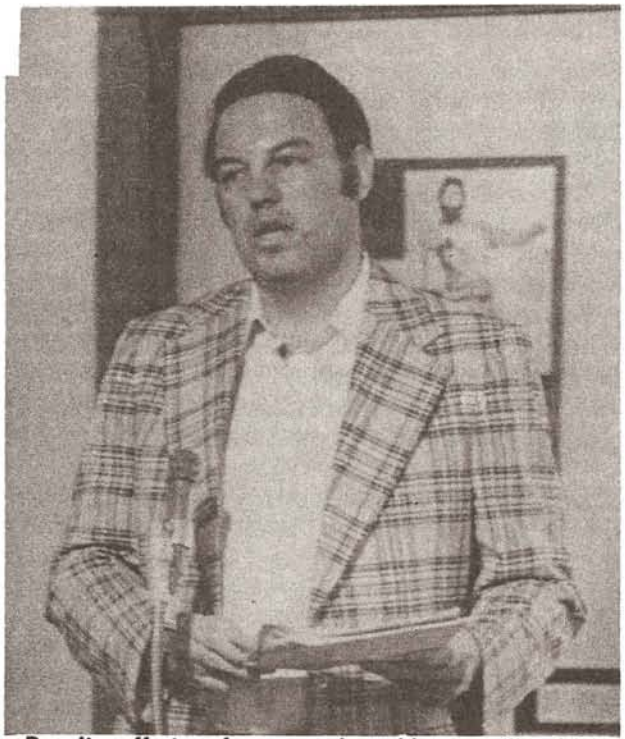
Alderman Natarus has specifically deceived the residents about development plans for the near northside community. After telling area residents publicly on Sept. 17, 1976 that he opposed destruction of low-income homes and called for public studies to evaluate possibilities for housing rehabilitation, it was learned that on June 21 the city council *unanimously* voted to clear the land in the Project Mohawk area.

A statement issued recently by the Coalition firmly charges Natarus, the city council, D.U.R., the Isham YMCA and Mayor Daley with plotting maliciously to seize and destroy low-income housing and drive the Black and oppressed community out. The facts discovered by the Coalition clearly point to a cover-up in the city's rapid implementation of the Chicago 21 Plan. The Coalition states: "We will not sit idly by and wait for the bulldozers to come like thieves in the night. We will fight your plan to seize and destroy our community. The struggle will continue."□

City Cuts Back On Public Information

In an alleged effort to save money and cut the budget, the city of Chicago has limited publication and distribution of important reports such as the *Journal of Proceedings of the City Council* and the Housing and Community Development Act plans for 1976-77.

Up until a few months ago, citizens could subscribe to the *Journal* for $2.00 a year. The *Journal* is the official record of the city council meetings and is the only source through which citizens can readily obtain information about what legislation has been introduced and how aldermen have voted in the council. When a member of a Chicago community organization recently went down to city hall to renew her subscription to the *Journal* she was told not to bother because the city was discontinuing its subscription service. Only a limited number of copies of the *Journal* are to be printed. The stated reason for the cutback was that less money was available for printing. Yet, observers point out that the city spent several hundred dollars this year printing the council *Journal* and other city publications in red, white and blue to commemorate the bicentennial!



Despite efforts of progressive aldermen like Dick Simpson to enact a local freedom of information ordinance, such proposals have never passed the city council.

Similarly, the city issued a much-abbreviated version of the Housing and Community Development Act Plan for Year II. In the first year of the program the city published a 63-page report outlining in some detail the city's plan for spending $43.8 million and developing a housing assistance plan. Entitled *Preliminary Report — March, 1975*, the booklet was widely circulated before neighborhood and city-wide hearings held last spring on how community development money should be spent. The city made a conscious effort to publish and distribute the reports in order to comply with federal guidelines for citizen participation and pressure from community groups for information.

This year, instead, the city only published two 11-page newsletters sketchily summarizing how the city spent its first year Community Development grant and its plans for the second year. The only place it's possible to view a full copy of the plan is at the Municipal Reference Library (MRL) located on the 10th floor of city hall. The MRL is the official library for the city departments and officials but is open only Monday-Friday, 9 to 5. Thus, anyone who works five days a week will never have the chance to use the facility which stores all the city reports. When asked why the library could not be kept open in the evenings or on the weekend, the answer was that there was not enough money.

Finally, it has been discovered that the city's Department of Development and Planning has "run out" of copies of the Comprehensive Plan, just at a time when community groups are mounting a city-wide movement to challenge the masterplan. A new masterplan has been drafted but will not be released until after the election.

Despite efforts of progressive aldermen like Dick Simpson to enact a local freedom of information ordinance and generally make city records more accessible (see *KEEP STRONG*, Nov., 1975), such proposals have never passed the city council. Chicago is noted for keeping records of its fiscal, planning and law enforcement activities under lock and key. Federal guidelines, however, require that the city keep detailed records of how federal funds (like community development money) are spent and allow citizens access to the information. Nevertheless, the struggle continues to open the files at city hall and obtain information communities need in their movement to build stable communities.□

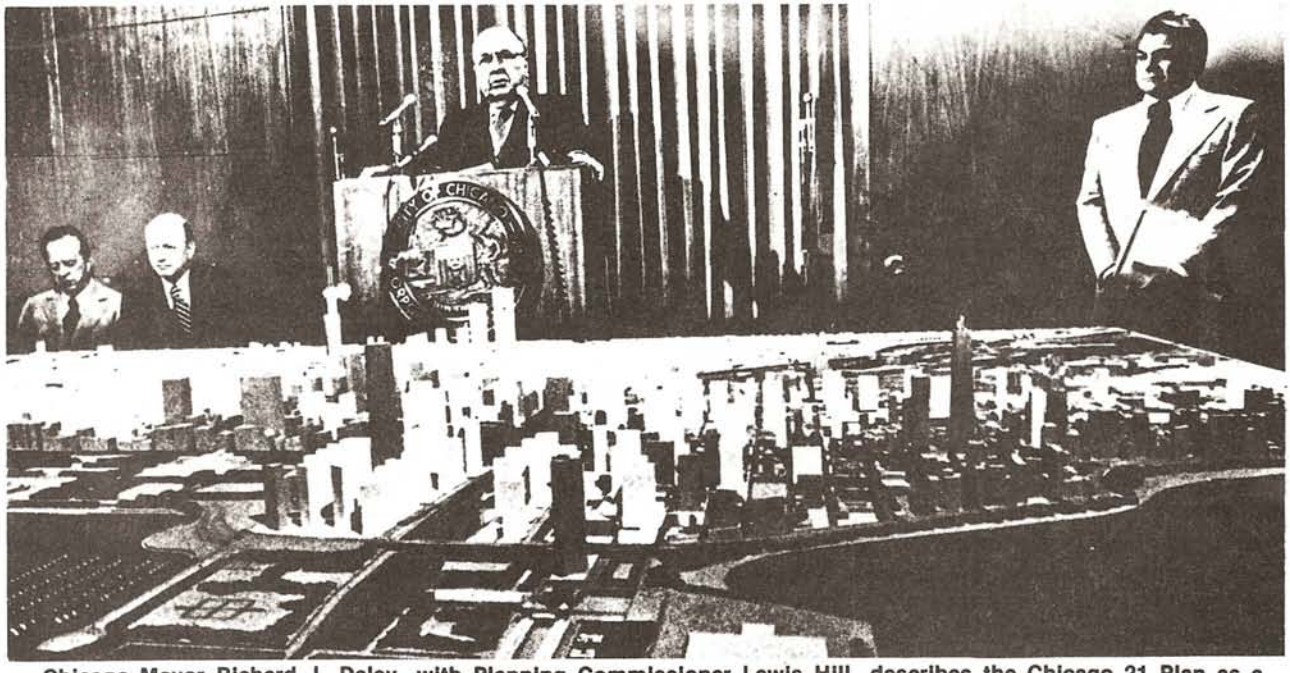
"From These Seeds A Mighty Movement Will Grow"

Active Opposition To Chicago 21 Takes Shape

After nearly 15 years of sporadic but desperately serious fights by different neighborhoods to stave off their destruction at the hands of the city, of urban renewal, of the Board of Education, of the big developers, and fleeing industry, finally the beginnings of a unified city-wide movement challenging the fundamental priorities of the power structure's plan for the future of Chicago are taking shape. This was the message conveyed by the speakers last month at an ISC Community Forum in Uptown on the "Chicago 21 Plan."

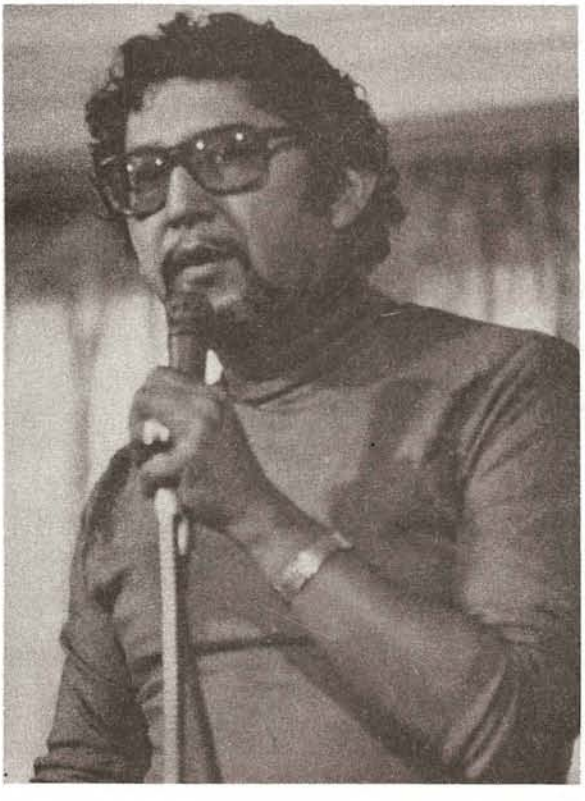
Marion Stamps, the director of the Chicago Housing Tenants Organization, Arturo Vasquez, of the Pilsen Coalition to Stop the Chicago 21 Plan, and ISC co-ordinator Slim Coleman announced the formation of the organizing committee for the city-wide coalition to stop the Chicago 21 Plan. The plan would basically "remodel" the central areas of the city, removing the Black, Latino and poor White population as the "remodeling" takes place.

The dynamic Ms. Stamps struck a strong note of solidarity between communities of poor people as she described the day to day realities that the destruction of communities involves everywhere.



Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley, with Planning Commissioner Lewis Hill, describes the Chicago 21 Plan as a "renaissance of the city."

Speaking at the ISC's Community Forum on the Chicago 21 Plan: Marion Stamps, director of the Chicago Housing Tenants Organization (above); Slim Coleman, ISC co-ordinator (right); and Arturo Vasquez from the Pilsen Coalition to Stop the Chicago 21 Plan (below).



She pointed out that the Chicago 21 Plan will eventually mean the virtual evacuation of Cabrini Green and other inner city housing projects, leaving these people homeless.

A moving theme of solidarity also characterized the speech of Arturo Vasquez as he said that, "We in Pilsen, in the Mexican community, have heard that Uptown is a fighting community, and we have come here to join with you." Vasquez went on to explain that the Chicago 21 Plan would mean driving thousands of Mexican families from their community.

Warning that racism must not be allowed to destroy the unity of the newly forming coalition, ISC co-ordinator Coleman emphasized that the Chicago 21 Plan was like a stone thrown into the middle of a pond, "and that the waves of development," of new projects, new real estate speculations, would affect every neighborhood in the city.

The organizing committee for the Chicago 21 Coalition is calling for its first major event on November 13, a "people's tribunal" where representatives from across the city will testify as to the effects of the Chicago 21 Plan in their areas. The committee also announced that a city-wide petition drive would kick off in the next few weeks.□

PEOPLE'S TRIBUNAL ON THE CHICAGO 21 PLAN

— Is There a Masterplan to Drive Us from the Central City?

— Shouldn't the Money be Spent on Jobs, Schools and Housing in Our Neighborhoods?

University of Illinois
Circle Campus
Saturday, November 13, 1976
4 P.M. to 7 P.M.

Science & Engineering
South Building
(Taylor & Halsted)
Lecture Hall 250
(1000 S – 800 W)

The tribunal will include testimony from representatives of communities throughout Chicago. Come and add your voice!

Workshops will be held at the same location on the Chicago 21 Plan and its effects on Chicago neighborhoods beginning at 12:30 P.M.

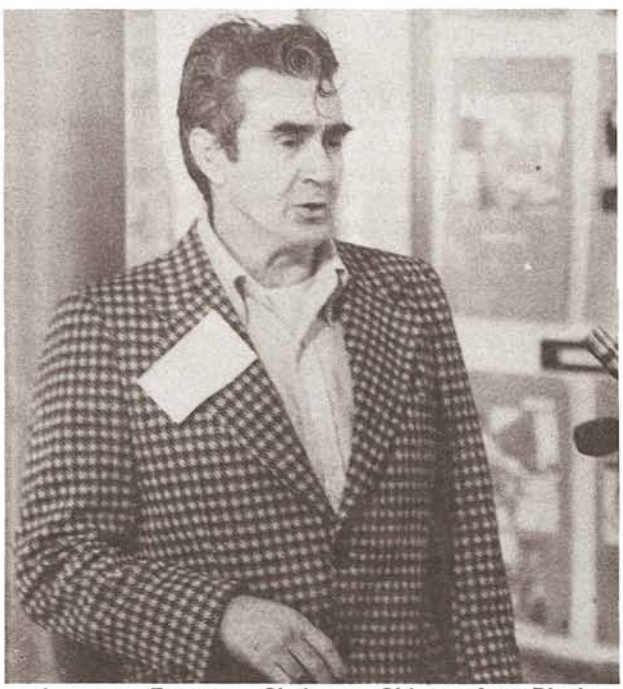
Entertainment, beginning at 7:30 P.M. will feature "Bev Grant and "The Human Condition" and "Flor y Canto."

Sponsored by The Coalition to Stop the Chicago 21 Plan
For more information call: 769-2086

Black Lung Claims In Chicago.... A Pattern Of Abuse

On Thursday, October 28, nearly 200 members of the press, union representatives, interested people from throughout the city and members of the Chicago Area Black Lung Association spent three moving hours listening to the righteous testimony of ex-miners and widows of miners. These eloquent and dignified witnesses, speaking at the Fred Hampton Memorial Hall in Uptown before U.S. Congressman Sidney Yates and a representative of U.S. Senator Adlai Stevenson, seriously and convincingly called into question the sincerity of the goverment in providing compensation to thousands of miners fatally crippled by black lung disease from their work in unsafe coal mines over many years.

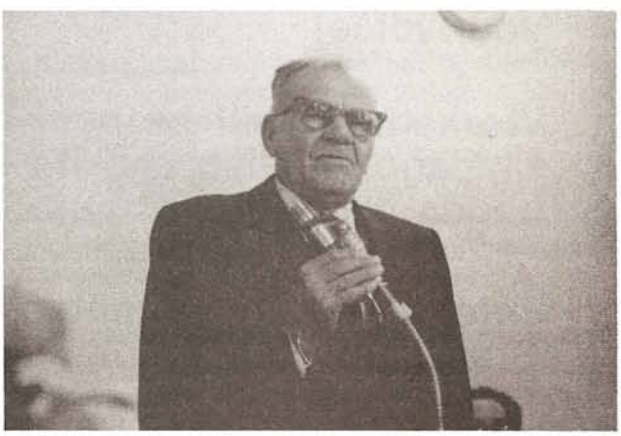
Conducted by attorney James Chapman, the testimony by CABLA members listed the many administrative abuses and violations of the law which ex-miners have been faced with when



Lawrence Zornes — Chairman, Chicago Area Black Lung Association

"The coal miners are the backbone of this nation. They struggled through the years working and loading coal in dangers, in dust, in explosions, in gas. They're entitled to these benefits. They're entitled to a future, something to survive on, some way to support their families. The leaders of this country have shut their eyes and turned their faces from the people, the miners struggling for some way to survive. It looks like they've overlooked the backbone of the country. Many of us struggle every night just to breathe. Some of us have died without ever seeing any justice from this government."

Bill Worthington, chairman of the Regional Black Lung Association.



Raymond Roberts — Ex-miner in West Virginia 12 years

"When I left the mine I already had trouble breathing at a young age. I was never allowed to file a claim because they said I had to work over 15 years."

Naomi Blackburn — Wife of Tommie Blackburn, ex-miner in Kentucky 16 years

"It often takes my husband three hours to catch his breath when he gets up in the morning. He's constantly coughing and spitting up blood. We've been to three or four of our own doctors, sent in all kinds of papers. He's been in the hospital twice hemorrhaging from the nose and mouth. My father died of black lung; I know what it's like. They denied our claim because they said we need more medical evidence. I don't know what more they could want."

Bessie Simpson — Widow of Hiram Simpson

"My husband came home every night with coal dust in his face. He lost an eye, an arm and busted his eardrums in the mines. He had everything to show that he was a miner. He was told he couldn't put in a claim because he was hurt and got sick before the law was passed."

applying for the benefits they are entitled to by law. The testimony of Bessie Simpson, Raymond Roberts and John Marshal clearly demonstrated how the Social Security Administration has refused to let people even file for their benefits, in direct violation of the federal law passed in 1973. In fact, evidence came forth that the SSA has even denied having any responsibility at all for black lung benefits. Further testimony displayed the SSA's ignorance, leading to biased and incorrect judgements, of conditions that coal miners have to work in.

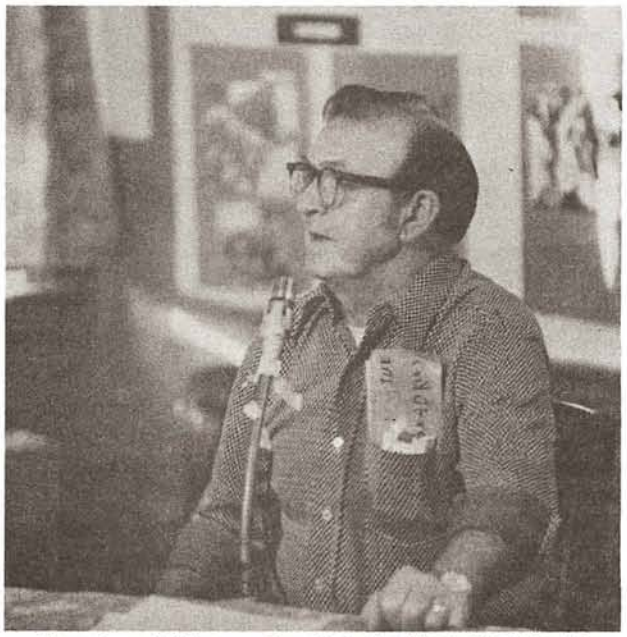
The inadequacy and narrow-mindedness of medical testing procedures used by the government to test for black lung was clearly shown in the cases of Wilburn Milner and Houston Adkins. They were both refused the extensive tests that are often necessary in the diagnosis of black lung. CABLA members Ernest Thery and Tommie Blackburn (represented by his wife) testified that, receiving form letters that explained nothing or at other times getting no response at all, they eventually had their claims denied, arbitrarily, for lack of evidence; both men have had extensive testing with clear-cut diagnoses of black lung disease.

Helen Powell, hard working secretary-treasurer of the regional Black Lung Associations, testified to the work of Dr. Rasmussen who has pioneered the field of black lung detection and whose work has been virtually ignored by the government. The testimony of Dr. Peter Orris, a resident in the department of medicine at Cook County Hospital with a special interest in occupational health, demonstrated how government doctors often turn in less than objective reports with conclusions often not even based on the acquired data.

Bill Worthington, regional chairman of the Black Lung Association in Appalachia, told how these abuses are occurring all over the country. He listed some of the things that they have uncovered in their years of struggle for the rights of miners to receive compensation for black lung disease. Among these were the

Anne Milner — Wife of Wilburn Milner, bedridden with black lung disease, ex-miner in Alabama for 26 years

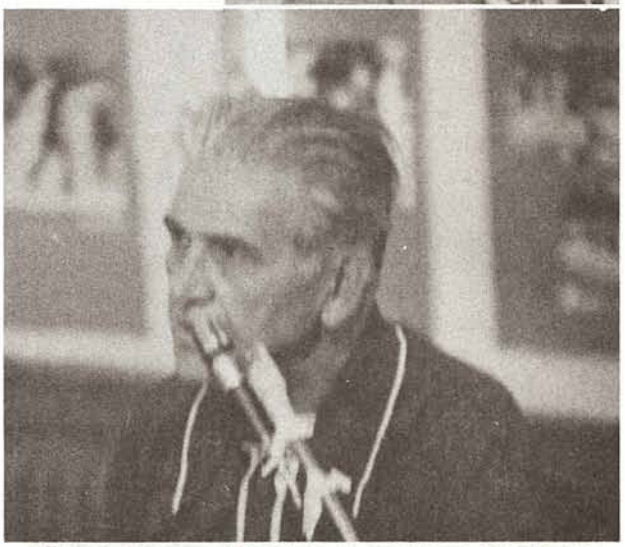
"When we first found out that he had black lung, he would walk a few steps and then start hacking and gagging. At the time working for U.S. Steel mines we lived in a company house, lived out of a company store and had seven young children to feed. My husband just couldn't quit work. After coming to Chicago he worked in the steel mills until his condition got so bad he had to quit because he couldn't make it from the parking lot to the job without losing his breath. He had been denied benefits because they said we lacked medical evidence.



Houston Adkins — Ex-miner in West Virginia 43 years

"At the medical exam in Hinsdale they did nothing. It's been a year since I heard from them. They tried to deny me the right to use my own doctor."

Helen Powell, secretary-treasurer of the Regional Black Lung Association



Ernest Thery — Ex-miner in southern Illinois 10 years

"When I told the government doctor that my father died of black lung at the age of 83, he sneered thinking how could he have been sick if he died so old. What he didn't bother to find out was that my dad spent his last 25 years unable to do anything but sit. Even with a biopsy to prove I have black lung, I was denied."

relative amateur radiologists hired to reread X rays to determine eligibility, the lack of any real education program for social security employees as to how to handle black lung claims and the tremendous amount of administrative delay and backlog of cases.

In closing the hearing, the Chicago Area Black Lung Association called on Congressman Yates and Senators Percy and Stevenson to support their demand for a special session of Congress in 1976 to deal with the Black Lung Bill which the Senate did not vote on in the closing session of Congress. This bill would correct many injustices in the present legislation. CABLA also recommended that in order to correct many of the past abuses, all social security offices be required to post in public view the rights of coal miners in filing black lung claims, and that all deadlines be waived for anyone who was illegally refused when originally attempting to file. CABLA also called for an independent commission to be set up in consultation with CABLA to study attitudes and methods of administration and procedures at all levels of processing black lung claims.

Gracie and John Marshall — Ex-miner in Alabama 28 years.

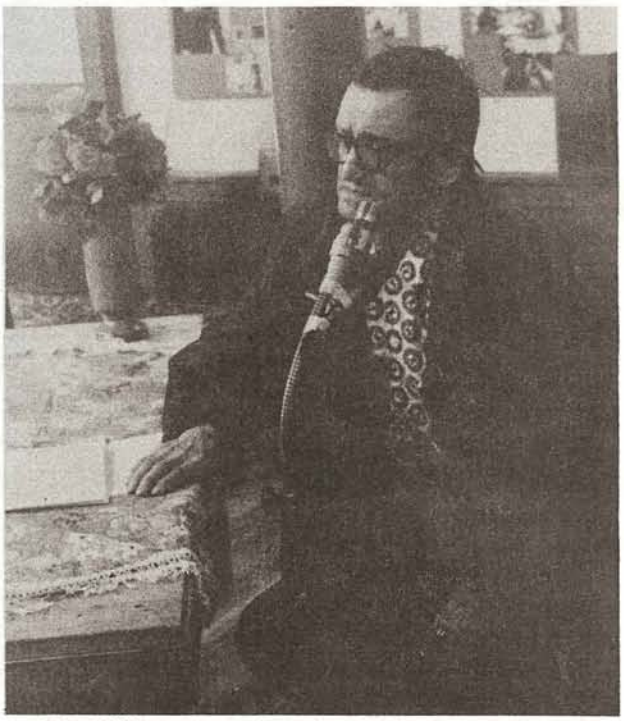
"I have a very hard time breathing, can't sleep, have pains in my legs and chest. At night I have to sit at the edge of the bed for hours just to catch my breath. When I tried to file a claim, I was told 'you're not sick. It's no use, you won't get nothing.' I've been too sick to go down there and try again."

Finally, CABLA recommended that in the interest of fair diagnostic procedures in determining claims as well as decent health care for migrants from coal fields, federal funds be used to set up coal miners' health centers to be staffed by doctors knowledgeable in the black lung field and with a community board made up of 50% miners or widows of miners.

Some CABLA members doubted the response of the politicians present and reflected that only continued pressure by the ex-miners themselves and their allies in the unions and in the community would get them to take action. In any case, the hearing presented a well-organized and well-documented case for the CABLA charge that black lung benefit claims are being intentionally denied by a coal operator-influenced bureaucracy with the belief in mind that the black lung legislation will not be renewed after 1981. Black Lung Association regional chairman Bill Worthington points out that the mines have not been cleaned up, the dust levels are just as high, and it is certainly time to extend the black lung protection legislation indefinitely past 1981. "It is time to make the companies responsible for the damage done to miners and other workers, working while they grow rich."□

Oma Warren — Widow of Clovis Warren, ex-miner in Kentucky

"Back when he was working it would take him two hours to get going in the morning. He would vomit all night from the dust. When he left the mines in 1963 he had a collapsed lung. Two months before he died the social security doctor told him that there was nothing wrong with him and that he just wanted something for nothing and that he should go back to work. He died of lung cancer and pneumoconiosis."



John Whitscarver — Ex-miner in Kentucky 23 years

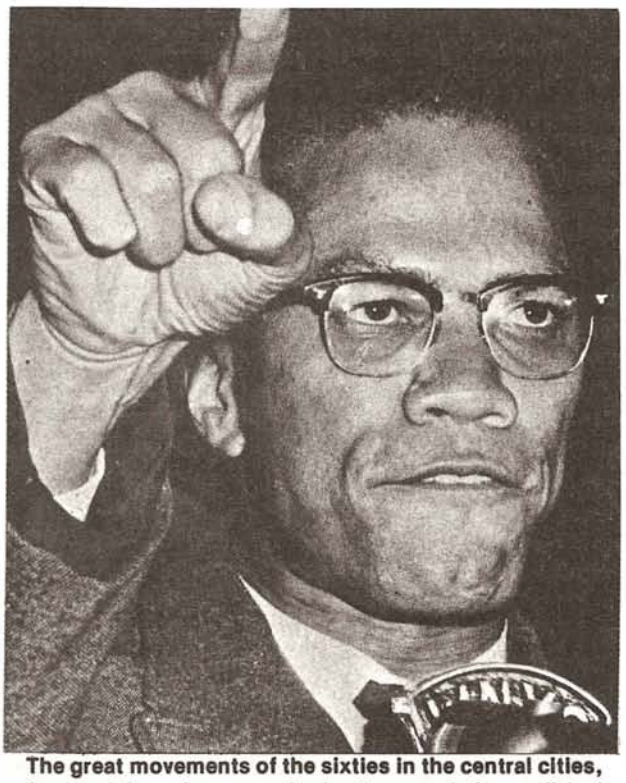
"When I filed in 1973 I could hardly walk because of the breathing problem. I've wrote and wrote and wrote to them and just never received any answer about my claim."

There *is* a Masterplan

A Memorandum to the National Interim Committee of the July 4th Coalition

Below, KEEP STRONG *reprints a memorandum prepared for the July 4th Coalition Interim Committee by Slim Coleman, co-ordinator of the Intercommunal Survival Committee.*

Fundamental to the widespread belief in the reality of democracy in the U.S. is the principle that the elected government is simply a mediator between different interests in the country, between all interests. Of course this is a lie, a hypocrisy, a vicious sham. Government set firmly in the controlling hands of the corporate and financial elite, is an active, calculating, scheming force, dedicated to maintaining and increasing the power of that same elite. Government, in actuality, involves itself in long-range planning to destroy and diffuse the force for people's power before it can become a serious, *active* threat. The more correct view of "our" government, of *the* government, has been taught to increasingly large numbers of people at great expense and loss of life, through countless exposures of official public lies and behind the scene dealings.

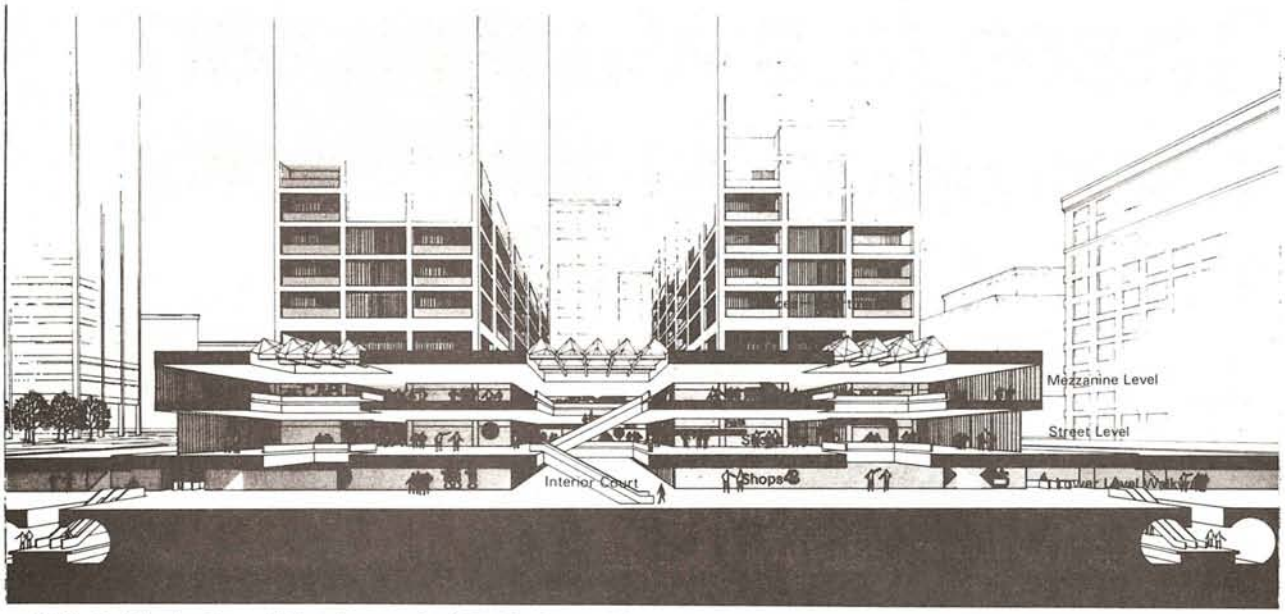


The great movements of the sixties in the central cities, for social and economic justice, and for political power, were envisioned and formulated by Malcolm, led by the example of the Black Panther Party, and ruthlessly attacked by both short and long-range means.

In this sense we view the great movements of the sixties in the central cities, movements for social and economic justice, and movements for political power. They were envisioned and formulated by Malcolm X, led by the example of the Black Panther Party, and they were ruthlessly attacked by both short and long-range means.

In the short-range, the movements for people's power, for "power to the people," were attacked through police murder, infiltration, massive "big lie" campaigns and the use of federal agencies such as the FBI, CIA, DIA and IRS which has now been exposed. In the long-range the very conditions of the possibility of the movement for people's power was being attacked through the development of "masterplans" for the cities.

When it was claimed in the sixties that masterplans existed for the city, the claimants were called "radicals," "paranoid dreamers" — the same as when they claimed that the FBI was involved in all-out attacks on community organizations and that there were actually concentration camps established, ready and waiting for a "national emergency." The FBI has been exposed, pictures appeared in the newspapers of the concentration camps, barbed wire and all, and now the masterplans are printed in expensive editions and available to the public at local department of development and planning offices.



Walled cities for the middle class are built in the inner cities where the poor have been removed. Called "cities within the city," they are given the highest priority for new schools, city services and police protection.

CONCEPT OF THE MASTERPLANS

The Masterplan — the Chicago 21 Plan, the Washington, D.C. "Year 2,000 Plan," the St. Louis "Team 4 Plan," etc., etc. — are simply plans to move the Black, Latino and poor White populations out of the city, where they now constitute a base of political power in the nerve centers of finance, trade and industry in the country. The poor and working people will be replaced by the White middle class. Those driven from the city will then be dispersed in powerless pockets of poverty throughout the country.

The masterplan operates in three stages. First, there is the massive use of government programs for urban renewal and social services. The funds are used to clear out large populations, tear down buildings, buy up small lots of land owned by different individuals so that the way is cleared for large developers to operate. The government-funded service programs co-opt resistance and involve community leaders in powerless conferences and individualistic struggles for professional salaries.

Second, the masterplan now calls for the partnership of the legal power of the city government and the financial and managerial resources of private banks and corporations. No longer is government funding beneficial because it carries too many strings, too many clauses requiring equal rights, equal opportunities and equal services. But the legal power of the city is still needed to take care of items like zoning, rights of way, changes in the use of utilities, transportation and security and police systems. Walled cities for the middle class are built in the inner cities where the poor have been removed, called "cities within the city" and given the highest priority for new schools, city services and police protection.

Third, looking to the dangerous possibility of losing political control, the masterplans call for the establishment of metropolitan government. Under the guise of increasing the declining tax base for city services, the city reaches out and incorporates the surrounding middle class suburbs, and the Black, Latino and poor and working class White city majority is a metropolitan political minority, unable to resist their own brutal elimination from their neighborhoods. In New York this metropolitan process was viciously accomplished by letting the city go nearly bankrupt and then forcing it to accept a state control board, overriding the elected city government.

You can read these plans in books, periodicals and other publications of the city planners and the inter-corporation, inter-bank memorandums. They are no longer hidden, although they are not widely explained, often publicized only through subterfuge, and *never, never* legally passed through legislation or referendum at the local, state or national levels.

THE REALITY OF THE MASTERPLANS

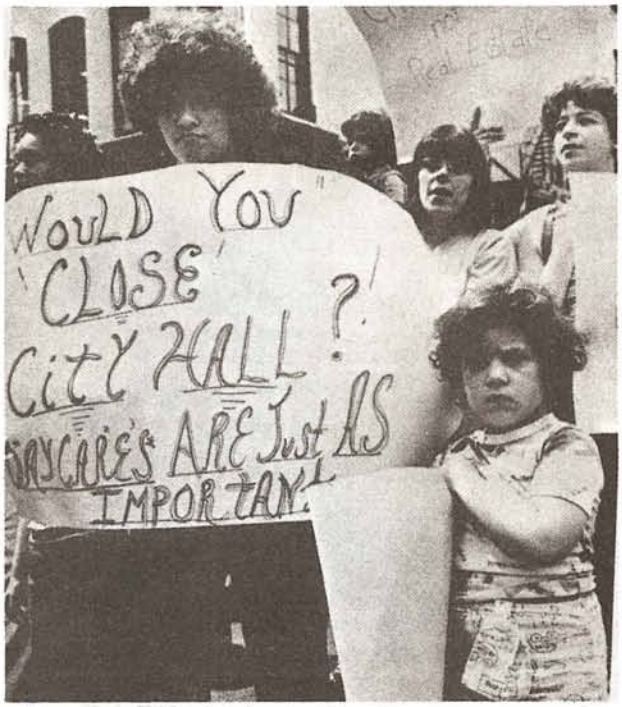
The reality of the process of implementing the masterplans is very familiar. Neighborhoods

are *officially* divided into three groups: the first group is the middle and upper middle class neighborhood which has survived the rush of Black, Latino and poor White people who came to the city looking for work. These neighborhoods need only to be secured, given more police protection, the best schools, fine city services, etc.

The second group of neighborhoods is designated as "salvageable;" that means they can be rehabilitated by tearing down some buildings, allowing services and schools to deteriorate only until the poor are driven out by rehab developers raising rents. When the poor are successfully driven out, then the middle class is marketed to and brought in to replace the poor. High quality services resume.

The third group of neighborhoods is designated "unsalvageable." Services are cut off. Financing is cut off. Industry leaves. The police only provide "protection" in kamikazi raids that brutalize the bystander more often than the criminal. Schools are allowed to become overcrowded, to deteriorate and then are shut down. Arson and drugs proliferate. Medical facilities close and leave the neighborhood. Gradually, the people leave although they have really no place to go.

There is only one other ugly reality to the masterplans: the implicit mobilization of White racism in the outlying, White working class neighborhoods of the city where Blacks and Latinos are slowly driven by the masterplan process. Ridiculous groups like the Nazis and the KKK raise their bizarre heads and gain credibility among Whites prone to prejudice and threatened by the "dog eat dog" world of the inner city.



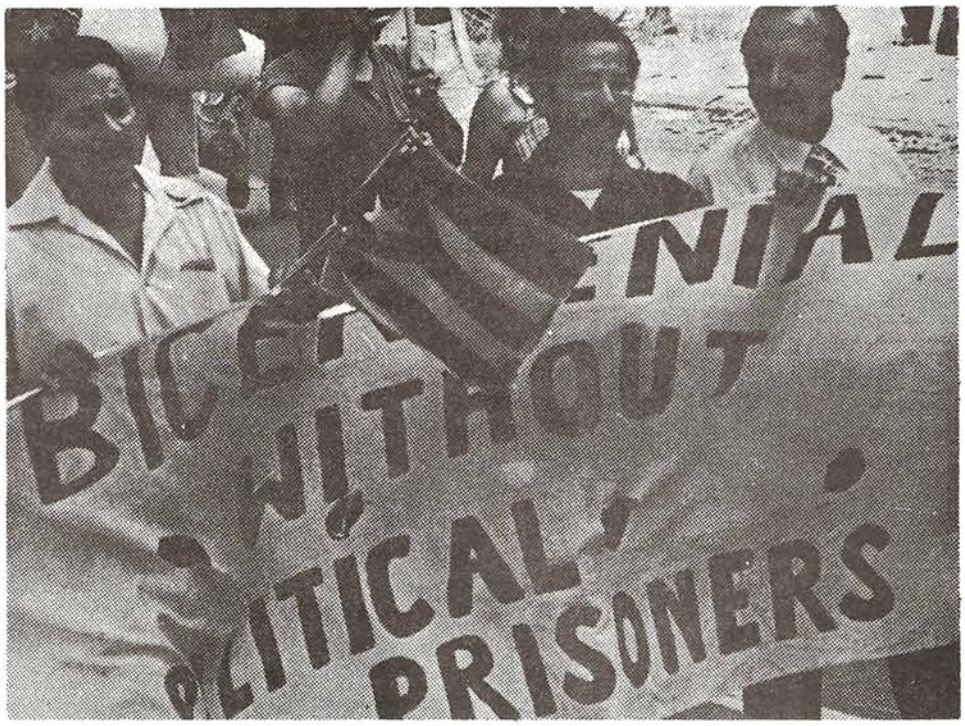
The potential for joining together the many grassroots struggles for better education, decent housing and more jobs into a unified movement against the masterplan is monumental.

FIGHTING FOR OUR LIVES

As bad as the cities may seem now, our lives will be worse when the masterplans have driven us out, because we will be totally without a voice. Better to stay and fight. It was the Black Panther Party Field Marshall George Jackson's vision

There is only one other ugly reality to the masterplans: the implicit mobilization of White racism. Ridiculous groups like the Nazis and the KKK raise their bizarre heads and gain credibility among Whites prone to prejudice and threatened by the "dog eat dog" world of the inner city.

that we would build central city communes, organized structures for collective survival in the cities, which would force those with large investments to contribute to our survival or to themselves withdraw. It was Malcolm's vision that these central city movements would be linked naturally to communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America struggling for survival, self-determination and the control of technology. It is the responsibility of Whites to link the hundreds of thousands of poor and working Whites to these developing central city Black and Latino-led movements, and it is the progressive future of the rank and file in the labor movement to turn the power of their unions against the corporations to stop masterplans and share the wealth and technology with cities controlled by poor and oppressed people.



On July 4, 1976 a hopeful coalition of progressive forces mounted an enthusiastic demonstration of thousands in Philadelphia. Hopefully that coalition will seize the opportunity to expose and confront the long-range attack on people's power by making the masterplan a national issue.

While the masterplan movement advanced, consolidated and centralized, the people's movement against these masterplans has made great and creative strides. In Oakland, California, under the leadership of the Black Panther Party, the struggle has moved from the purely defensive stage, to the stage where actual stalemate is often possible, and even on occasion successful offensive action. In New York and Chicago strong defensive movements are beginning. We have learned to manipulate the contradictions in federal guidelines on federal funds. We have learned ways to challenge in the courts the use of legal power of the city in co-operation with the private developers. Progressive rank and file movements, as in the UAW during the last strike, are demanding that their unions challenge the corporations to improve the standard of living of people in the city. In some places, we have learned to utilize the electoral process to educate and organize oppressed people and even seize valuable seats from which to heighten the struggle. The potential for joining together the many grass roots struggles for better education, decent housing and more jobs, and mobilizing the gigantic sentiment for these things into a unified movement against the masterplan on both a local and national level, is monumental. It is a question of seizing the time and hard work.

JULY 4, 1976

On July 4, 1976, a hopeful coalition of progressive forces mounted an enthusiastic demonstration of thousands in Philadelphia. The coalition demanded a better life for our people based on the recognition of the right of all oppressed people to self-determination. While we continue the struggle against repression of the people's movement, against the U.S. domination of Puerto Rico, Zimbabwe and other peoples struggling for liberation around the world, we can expose and confront the long-range attack on people's power by making the masterplan a national issue, to co-ordinate the efforts of people to confront it, to spread successful techniques and help shape a massive mobilization of people's power over the next decade. Hopefully, the coalition will seize this opportunity and clearly define the fight against the masterplan.□

Black Panther Party 10th Anniversary: "We Celebrate the People"

Editorial statement from the Black Panther Intercommunal News Service, October 17, 1976.

Breakfast programs, guns, armed revolutionaries, free clinics, fiery rhetoric. Images of a Party, 10 years old now, an organization at once defined as racist and integrationist, left-wing and reformist, a political party and a band of armed guerrillas.

Seizing the history of oppression at one of its many nodal points, in the tradition of Nat Turner, of Malcolm X, of free men refusing to be chained, Huey P. Newton launched the Black Panther Party in October of 1966. There were others who came and followed, young men classified as scum of society, forgotten children, alienated and disenfranchised — some of whom History shall remember in kind ways, some of whom History shall disdain or forget — to piece together the beginnings of a people's army, built upon love of their mothers, their fathers and sisters and friends who suffer so in life cycles of humiliation and degradation. A ragtag army of goodwill that dared to challenge the fiber of oppression in a country built upon the rough road of chattel slavery and exploitation paved over with democratic phraseology.

What is this Black Panther Party who took its name from a Southern voter registration project. Communist, anarchist, Marxist, Leninist, Maoist. Terms of political theorists who had yet to truly define the political monster of U.S. imperialism. A Party of Blacks who knew a tradition unheard of in History: enslaved without capture, bereft of native language and culture, snatched from native territory, miscegenated by force but never assimilated, abandoned to an industrial — now technological — world of aliens, without a home to which to return, whose new culture was oppression, who neither owned nor controlled one part of their lives or future, whose allies were enemies, those who had poured onto the shores of the New World in search of common ground to stand upon, lest they fall upon the shifting sands of old world decadence; and native people who knew well the barbarity of the Mayflower generation for their native cries of battle had been snuffed to a whimper and reserved in pockets of ignominity; and the strong children of the Boxer rebellion who were never believed human; the proud sons and daughters of Mexico ". . .who looked for work and money, who walked the ragged mile. . ."; all these, "the least of them," walking alone through the storm with heads bent not in supplication but in fear and oppression. Huey P. Newton, a man so proudly, innocently simplistic in his genius, not oppressed by the notion of a need for or possibility of a blueprint for revolution made either at the Winter Palace, or the Sierra Maestra, or during the Long March, living in the belly of the monster, knew, consciously knew, that new parties of people had to come forward, in our massive millions, to seize and break once and for all the chains that bound us to oppression and

Bobby James Hutton | Arthur Morris | Tommy Lewis | Robert Lawrence | Steve Bartholomew

Welton Armstead | Sidney Miller | Frank Diggs | Alprentice "Bunchy" Carter | John Jerome Huggins

Alex Rackley | John Savage | Sylvester Bell | Nathaniel Clark | Larry Roberson

Spurgeon "Jake" Winters | Walter "Toure" Pope | Fred Hampton | Mark Clark | Sterling Jones

Babatunde X Omarwali | Carl Hampton | Jonathan Jackson | Fred Bennett | Samuel Napier

George Jackson | Joseph Waddell | Cindy Smallwood | Bruce "Deacon" Washington

divided us from peace and dignity; knew that a country founded upon and fostered by war could not stand; and knew that the burden of knowing was to foster the change with one's own life.

There *was* the rub, the insult to the powerful who had, by now, even sold their phraseology, in the form of peaceful co-existence sponsored by Hertz Rent-A-Car and Pepsi-Cola, to the First Workers' State. In the ignorance of darkness, when all else had seemingly failed, the Black Panther Party made one loud cry and millions heard. In the early days, chapters and branches sprouted like the wings of the eagle — or a dove — throughout the United States, flying on the wings of the unconscious, powerful statements of Watts and Detroit. For while the Negro businessmen and others had seized small business loans out of the ashes, the masses were left with no more than a bitter memory and pacification dollars called poverty programs that would never, could never satiate the hunger for the freedom tasted. And they have killed our prince, Malcolm, and even the poor could recognize the difference between leather and plastic, the difference between the imposed leaders who poorly imitated Malcolm, . . ."full of sound and fury, signifying nothing." The Party flourished.

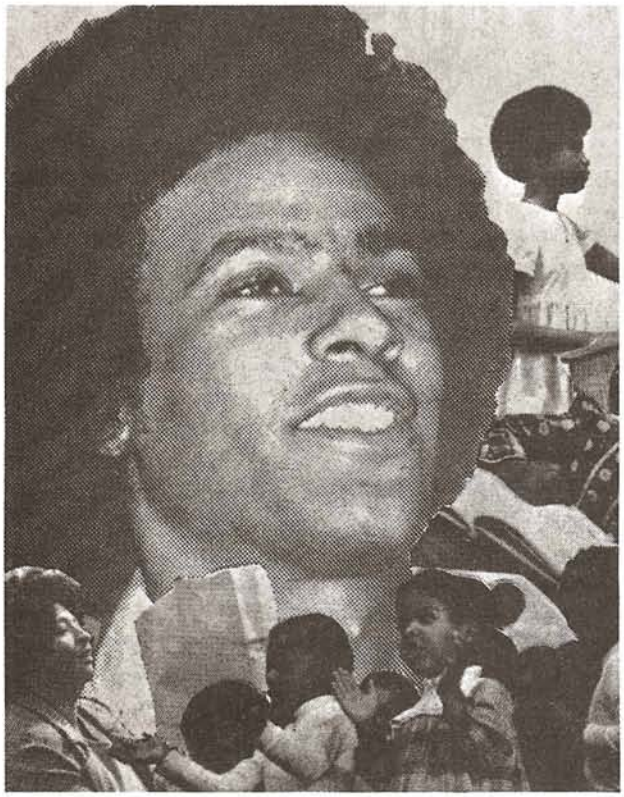
The singlemost dangerous threat to the internal security of the United States. Translation: they will spread the dangerous notion of freedom, of the power of the people who are the many over the few, of the notion of the right to live, to control one's life.

Front page headlines warning what the price would be not for reformist dissent but for being too serious about this whole business of freedom: Bobby Hutton — he was the beginning; Tommy Lewis, Steve Bartholomew and Robert Lawrence at once cut down by police in L.A. in 1968; Bunchy Carter, one of the first soldiers in this new army, and John Huggins; Fred Hampton and Mark Clark; Jake Winters and Frank Diggs and Sam Napier; even the man-child Jonathan; a planned and calculated assassination of the beautiful Field Marshal, of George Jackson. Millions of dollars in bails for false arrests. Hundreds of false arrests. Bombed the office in Kansas City; introduced the SWAT team to 11 young people in the Los Angeles office; destroyed and burned the clinic in Chicago — three times; stop the newspaper at all costs — burn it, hose it down, attack the distributors; propagandize always — that they indoctrinated "racist" coloring books. Work so that those millions of friends and lovers, that powerful now disjuncted army will never rise a mighty, single fist, once knowing the secret of their might.

10 YEARS

These have been the 10 years since the inception of the Black Panther Party. We were, we are dialectical materialist, revolutionary intercommunalists, but more, soldiers in a new

The Black Panther Party's Free Breakfast for Children Program: "They will spread the dangerous notion of freedom, of the power of the people who are the many over the few, of the notion of the right to live, to control one's life."



Huey P. Newton, "The founder and leader of our Party has been forced into exile. He will return!"

"A planned and calculated assassination of the beautiful Field Marshal, George Jackson."

army, that promotes the new American Revolution. A Party that fights still, daily to be simply a beacon, a broadcaster, a messenger who says we can and will win over death, oppression, indignities; that we, the working and poor people of this country, can rise up out of our ignorance and unleash the shackles; that we need not work for or beg from anyone; that together we are in a position of power, power to change the relationships of greed among human beings and create a new world out of all of it. It has been 10 years. There will be more. The founder and leader of our Party has been forced into exile. He will return. Our dedication, our purpose, our programs and platform exist for the people, all the people, to introduce this fundamental change or to die trying. We celebrate the people, then, on the 10th anniversary of our Party.☐

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Labor Unions, Chicago Style: IBEW Local 1031

This is the first in a KEEP STRONG *exclusive investigating the workings of a large Chicago local of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, local 1031. The local's membership is over 16,000 workers at 67 plants and shops, most involved in the manufacture of electrical components. Comments and letters on the series are welcome, and names of contributors will be kept confidential on request.*

According to the workers interviewed by *KEEP STRONG*, the issue in local 1031 is not whether it should be a democratic union. It is whether "democratic union" should be spelled with a small "d" as in "the members should control the union" or with a capital "D," as in "Dick Daley's Democratic Machine." It takes a while, however, sometimes a few years, for a union member to learn the real workings of the union.

At most of the companies a worker meets his or her union representative for the first time in the personnel office when first hired. In fact, in at least one case, the Chief Steward has his office across from the personnel office, dresses nicely in a suit and tie, and is on the payroll of the company. He explains that the union dues will be taken automatically out of the worker's check. Normally the worker gets a copy of the contract only by request.

That may be the last contact a worker will have with this peculiar union for some time. There are, according to those interviewed, some fighting stewards on the floor, but these are the exceptions in most plants. One reason, a new member finds, is that most stewards are simply appointed by the union leadership. An election may be held if there is a petition drive for one, but the election result is officially "Only Advisory" to the union leadership.

The grievance procedure is one of the weakest in modern union history and depends pretty much on how much the steward and chief steward are willing to fight, and how much clout they have with the company. The main weakness is that there is no fixed time in which a grievance must go to arbitration, so that the company has nothing really forcing it to respond.

By the time that contract negotiations roll around, the new member probably has a lot of questions on his or her mind. What about grievances that have been hanging up in the air for months without being settled? What about this complicated set of "labor grades" which places women consistently in the lowest grades,

Judge Maurice Perlin, after never working in the plants, became the president of local 1031 in 1964.

According to workers, the issue in local 1031 is not whether it should be a democratic union. It is whether "democratic union" should be spelled with a small "d" as in "the members should control the union" or a capital "D" as in Dick Daley's Democratic Machine."

making lower wages and giving up seniority rights because of it? What about the long list of company "rules" that prohibit use of certain types of language and belonging to what the company believes is a "subversive" organization? What about safety provisions? And what is this that the union has no strike fund?

If the new member is very attentive during contract time, he or she will find out what was not discussed at the poorly attended union meetings which are run more like corporation board of directors' meetings without membership involvement. The new member finds out that *one man* (or a chosen representative) sits alone with the company to negotiate the contract. This one man reports back to a negotiating committee made up of stewards and steward-selected (in most cases) representatives, but they must accept his view of the negotiation, and "what is the best deal we can get." This one man's name is Maurice Perlin, *Judge* Maurice Perlin.

Judge Maurice Perlin was the chief attorney for 1031 for 18 years. Then, in a strange bit of union maneuvering, this man, who had never worked in the plants, became the president of the local in 1964. In another interesting maneuver, Judge Perlin had the union by-laws changed so that he could serve not only as president but also as business agent, pulling in a neat $89,000 a year.

While negotiating on the part of the workers with their companies, the Judge also sits as vice chairman of the Chicago City Colleges and helps Chancellor Shabat negotiate for the college against the unions, which include electrical workers. His job as chief justice in the state small claims court only shows more conclusively his close ties with the Daley machine, although he makes no particular effort to hide his party loyalty.

Since when, the new members ask themselves, does the Daley machine run a labor union? And since when is the highest official of a labor union also a judge? The answers to these questions, according to some workers, explain many of the problems with the union. In many cases the companies are strong supporters of the Daley machine, and the "sweetheart" arrangements between the company and the union can be traced to "keeping the peace" in the Daley regular organization.

On November 2, as this issue was going to press, Judge Perlin was elected an appellate court judge of Illinois, with the strong support of the machine. As he steps up from his union job, he will undoubtedly attempt to name his successor so the cozy relationship between 1031 and the machine will continue. There seem to be, however, rumblings of democratic opposition by workers who would like to see the union returned to the membership. As Perlin leaves, he leaves no small bitterness among workers, one of whom said, "Perlin milked our dues money to help him get a big political office, and now he is leaving our union weak and in bed with the companies."□

Broad Coalition for Social Development Commission Elections in Milwaukee, Wisc.

Nearly 500 people attended the first community dinner sponsored jointly by Esperanza Unida, the Milwaukee Chapter of the Intercommunal Survival Committee and the Milwaukee Tenants Union. The overflow crowd enjoyed a delicious meal of chicken mole, spanish and fried rice, baked ham, potato salad, jello and cake. The program, which was highlighted by the Maker Brothers playing a lively set of country music, Emilio Jimenez and his children performing a dynamic dance ensemble and a raffle enjoyed by all, included statements by most of the "people's" candidates for the Milwaukee Social Development Commission who uniformly urged all present to organize and vote for their survival.

The well attended event raised funds for the struggling survival programs that the southside oppressed community is rapidly turning to more and more. These include the general program of representation and counseling for injured workers by Esperanza Unida, the Free Transportation to Prison Program of the Intercommunal Survival Committee, and the day to day advocacy and organizing efforts of the southside local of the Milwaukee Tenants Union.

The successful dinner also served as an appropriate kick off for the community based campaign to expose corruption and move toward community control of Milwaukee's Social Development Commission.

The previously hidden, but highly financed Social Development Commission has become the object of a city-wide electoral effort here aimed at bringing the Commission, the city's only federally funded, anti-poverty agency, under the control of large sections of the oppressed communities and exposing its historic role in the massive destruction of low-income housing. Formed in the mid '60's as a comprehensive response to social problems in the inner city, the SDC has become known as a giant network of telephones, paperwork, agencies and poverty workers, spending some $15 million annually and delivering almost no goods and services to the poor communities.

Organizers of the electoral campaign point to the lack of genuine community programs and the abundance of paid office workers as evidence of the inability of the city to really help the communities without direct control from the communities. As further evidence, campaign organizers are asking the public to take note of the destruction of thousands of units of low-income housing in the late '60's and early '70's on the city's northside Black community, at a time when SDC popped up with store front offices and referral services.

Tim Kelly, of the Milwaukee Tenants Union, an organization involved in the people's campaign, bitterly reviewed the work of SDC stating: "The SDC put its people into the community to gather information and create divisions, getting people to fight over crumbs, and making it much easier to tear down houses and move people out when the developers and contractors got ready to take over."

Not accidentally, the direction and leadership of the well organized effort comes from the Latino community, long the victims of Mayor Maier's two-handed practice of saying one thing and doing another. It is the same Mayor Maier who is always talking about a national urban policy while spending millions in Milwaukee on public construction projects (uncompleted freeways, a harbor bridge going nowhere, convention halls, lake fronts and renovated opera halls) and

Nearly 500 people attended the first community dinner sponsored by Esperanza Unida, the Milwaukee Chapter of the Intercommunal Survival Committee and the Milwaukee Tenants Union where many of the people's candidates for the Milwaukee Social Development Commission uniformly urged all to organize and vote for their survival.

denying Milwaukee's beseiged communities the basic services for survival.

The SDC is made up of 24 commissioners, eight of whom are elected from different areas around Milwaukee County and 16 who are appointed by government and big business interests. The election procedure calls for the election of eight, 11 person area councils who in turn select one member each to serve on the commission. The first and only election was held in 1973 after the federal government investigated SDC, found it to be completely removed from the people and ordered public elections. In spite of this, the election was kept secret, and many people were elected with just 35 or 40 votes.

The outrage of community residents becomes clear with the fact that $4.5 million has been spent in the past three years on administration at the SDC downtown headquarters. The "Hunger Task Force" which has salaried people at over $14,000 a year has a total of $300 in its emergency food fund, and the Wisconsin Information Service pays senior citizens $2.30 an hour to answer the phones while paying "administrators" $17,000 a year.

Campaign organizers state that creating more jobs and job training programs, housing and housing rehabilitation programs, community run food and clothes buying co-ops and legal services is the basic direction in which SDC should be moving.

The Latino community, which has suffered without one single elected representative in the state of Wisconsin, is now seizing the opportunity to make its powerful voice heard. Campaign workers have been in the neighborhoods on the northside and southside for weeks with voter registration materials and nominating petitions. Thousands of people have been spoken to in person.

In the city's southside poor White community, a number of organizations have begun to work closely with the Latino groups in the first attempt to educate and mobilize White people behind the progressive leadership of the Latino community.□

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

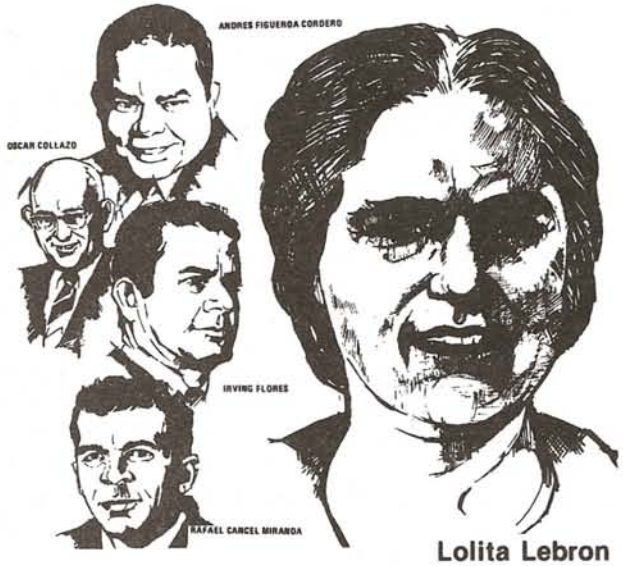
Lureida Torres Released – Campaign To "Free The Five" Gains Strength

Lureida Torres, a Puerto Rican Socialist Party organizer for the Puerto Rican independence struggle, was released from prison in New York on October 28 and received enthusiastically by a waiting crowd. She had been jailed since early last summer for refusing to testify in front of a grand jury probing the activities of her Party. The grand jury had ominously turned its questioning to the organization of the July 4th Coalition in an attempt to block what was soon to be one of the most massive demonstrations held by progressive people in support of Puerto Rican indepedence on July 4 in Philadelphia. Refusing to be intimidated by the threat of imprisonment, the courageous Puerto Rican freedom fighter told the crowd she would go back to jail before she would compromise the struggle for freedom and independence in her country.

As Ms. Torres was released, the campaign to free the five Puerto Rican nationalist political prisoners was gaining momentum and taking on new dimensions. The five—Lolita Lebron, Oscar Collazo, Rafael Cancel Miranda, Irvin Flores and Andres Figueroa Cordero—were sentenced to 75 year terms nearly 26 years ago following armed protests against President Truman and at the U.S. Congress, demanding an end to the colonial subjugation of the island of Puerto Rico.

An extensive and unified movement in Puerto Rico of trade unions, students and progressive people demanding the five's release has even forced the colonial governor of Puerto Rico to ask President Ford to set them free. More recently a growing movement in the U.S. has joined the movement in Puerto Rico, combining important sectors of the prison movement with broad support from labor union leaders, Black, Mexicano and progressive White organizations in this significant crusade. The U.S. coalition recently mobilized a demonstration of 500 people at the isolated Federal Prison Medical Center in Springfield, Missouri, where Andres Cordero is being held, dying of terminal cancer. A demonstation of thousands is anticipated in New York on November 13.

The case raises important issues about the cruel and unusual treatment of men and women in U.S. prisons as well as significant points concerning Puerto Rican independence. A suit will be filed in federal court at the end of November documenting that the five are political prisoners, not criminals. The suit will show that they sought only the freedom of their country from U.S. occupation and are being illegally held according to the U.N. Charter as well as the Geneva Accords regarding political prisoners. Already a resolution is pending in the U.N., and



Lolita Lebron

puerto rico libre!

the case of the five nationalist prisoners is helping to clearly expose as a lie the U.S. claim that Puerto Rico is an "internal possession."□

Mexican Migrants Targeted In New Immigration Law

A bill recently signed into law by President Ford establishes an annual quota of 20,000 for each country on the number of people who may emigrate to the United States. It includes a preference system for Mexico which previously had an immigration of 120,000 and makes it no longer possible for Mexican parents of U.S. citizens under 21 years of age to legalize their status.

According to a press release from CASA, General Brotherhood of Workers, the Eilberg Bill proposes to solve problems such as unemployment and inflation. However, they point out, "Large international corporations in this country have been responsible for the unemployment of more than 1 million people since 1967. In fact, 1.5 million jobs were lost between 1967-75 through relocation of plants in Latin America and other parts of the world in search of cheap labor and more raw materials.

"Immigrant workers are also charged with causing adverse effects on the economy by sending money out of the country and evading taxes. A sizable majority of undocumented workers receive wages below the minimum standards. If we consider this along with the fact that room and board must be paid, very little is left to be sent back to their families.

"On the contrary it is those multinational corporations causing unemployment which have paid little or no taxes. In 1973, companies such as Gulf Oil, United Airlines, Trans World Airlines and American Electric Power paid no taxes at all. Others, such as Texaco, Kennecott Copper and International Harvester with incomes up to $1,373.3 million, paid less than 2% in taxes.

"Finally Mr. Eilberg has justified his bill by implicitly agreeing with the Immigration and Naturalization Service that undocumented workers increase the burden on the American taxpayer through added welfare costs. We only have to visit any local public aid office to find out that they require proof of citizenship and lawful residence in order to determine eligibility for public assistance. In some areas these agencies have notified the INS of potential 'illegal aliens,' thereby eliminating the desire to request such assistance but not eliminating the need for it.

"It is no mystery to us, the Mexican community, as to the purpose of the Eilberg Bill. If it was left to Eilberg alone, he would make an immigration agent of every citizen in the U.S. Eilberg stated in 1972 that all citizens, i.e. the doctor, the milkman, would have the responsibility of turning in the 'illegal.' "□

Congressional Hearings Urge Moving Poor Out

(Washington, D.C.) Recent hearings held in Washington, D.C. by the House Committee on Banking, Currency and Housing focused on the need to move poor people out of the central cities in order to redevelop downtown areas for White middle class workers. Testimony was heard almost exclusively from bankers, industrialists and urban planners who urged moving poor people into the suburbs or industrial areas on the outskirts of the cities.

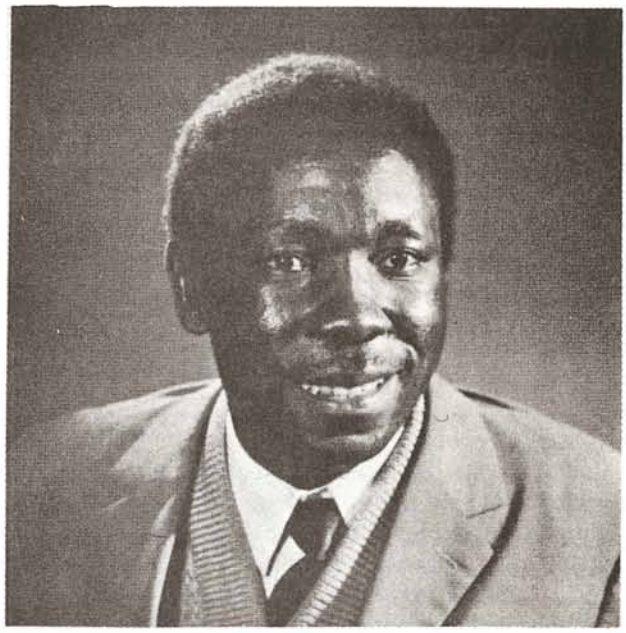
Protest at the hearings came chiefly from Black leaders and civil rights advocates. Black Congressman Parren D. Mitchell (D.—Maryland) charged that the proposal was aimed at destroying political bases built by Blacks and other poor people who constitute majority populations in central cities throughout the country. Another critic of the plan, Clarence Mitchell of the NAACP, urged Congress to appropriate more money for housing rehabilitation in low-income communities.

The hearings give further evidence of the masterplans to drive poor people from the cities where they constitute political majorities. However, a nation-wide protest appears to be developing, as the first week of hearings concluded with a strong demand for "more power for people at the neighborhood level," *The New York Times* reports.□

INTERCOMMUNAL PERSPECTIVE

ZANU Delegation Spearheads Geneva Talks

Recently, KEEP STRONG *had the privilege of speaking to Eddison Zvobgo, Editor of Zimbabwe News and Publicity Director for ZANU in North America. ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union) is currently waging the armed struggle in Zimbabwe and is involved in a conference in Geneva, Switzerland called by the British government to discuss the future of Zimbabwe. The following is a first hand report of the current situation in Geneva and Zimbabwe.*



Eddison Zvobgo

"The situation in Zimbabwe in general and with ZANU in particular is now better than it has ever been. The armed struggle in Zimbabwe against the Smith racist regime is intensifying daily, even as talks go on in Switzerland. This week the People's Army was able to wipe out an entire platoon of the Rhodesian army just outside of Salisbury. This victory increased the power and effectiveness of the ZANU delegation at the talks. The Rhodesian army is now entirely on the defensive, and the Smith illegal racist regime is near doom.

The U.S. knows that a liberated Zimbabwe along with People's Mozambique and People's Angola, a liberated territory stretching from sea to sea represents a permanent threat to its interests in southern Africa.

"In Geneva the ZANU delegation is very strong. We have been able to form a patriotic front with all other Zimbabwe nationalists, including Joshua Nkomo and other reactionary elements. The line and overall position of ZANU has prevailed. Through negotiations with other African leaders we have secured the release of all of our political prisoners who had been held in Zambian prisons. So we now have our entire political and military leadership together for the first time in years, including General Tongogara who is founder and leader of the ZANLA army.

"As far as the talks are concerned, they are just about over. ZANU will probably leave Switzerland within the next week. The British, who have called the talks and have the legal authority to grant the Zimbabwean people their freedom, have assigned a lesser official of their government to the talks, someone who does not have the power to grant us our freedom. They have not agreed to pay for the conference, something we cannot do. The only thing we are willing to discuss is the date of independence, the date that complete power will be turned over to ZANU.

The "Kissinger plan" is nothing more than a last ditch effort by the U.S. to save its interests.

"The so-called 'Kissinger plan' that the western press says forms the basis of the negotiations has been completely rejected by all African leaders. This plan called for a 'transitional' government controlled by the white minority overall and allows Smith to maintain control of the ministries of the military, the police and justice. We know that as long as the army and other repressive forces of this racist, fascist government of Ian Smith are still in tact that we can have no freedom.

"This Kissinger plan also contains a permanent indemnity clause or as we call it a Nixon clause. This whole thing we will never discuss. This clause calls for the new Zimbabwe government to agree not to try Ian Smith or any other of his proteges for any of the crimes they have committed. These crimes include murder, genocide, treason, theft of land and so on. This clause also calls for Zimbabwe to pay for the land that the white settlers stole from us and to pay lifetime pensions to anyone who worked in the Rhodesian government for more than six years. They want us to discuss how we will pay pensions to our murderers.

"This plan is nothing more than a last ditch effort by the U.S. to save its interests by replacing the Smith regime with a Black reactionary regime. These things are non-negotiable; we cannot agree to anything less than the complete freedom of the Zimbabwean people.

"ZANU will probably leave Geneva within a week. The British and Smith have refused to discuss any date with us and insist on discussing other irrelevancies. ZANU will return to Zimbabwe and in the next seven months wage a vigorous, militant armed struggle until final victory. We will never again return to the conference table until the people are in control and the racist White minority regime of Ian Smith is completely dismantled!"□

THE ZIMBABWE NEWS

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The Editor/Publisher
Zimbabwe News
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ENTERTAINMENT

LITTLE FIDDLIN' SUZY ZARB

Last month over 200 community residents filled Fred Hampton Memorial Hall on October 24 for the Intercommunal Survival Committee's monthly, Country Music Sunday. The featured entertainer was Little Fiddlin' Suzy Zarb, the 15 year old fiddling sensation. Suzy wowed the audience with her remarkable skill and talent. Backing her up were three talented musicians in their own right: Eugene Turner, well-known Chicagoland guitar man; Jimmy Gray, popular singer on the country music circuit and Johnny Johnson playing bass. Needless to say the audience was jumping.

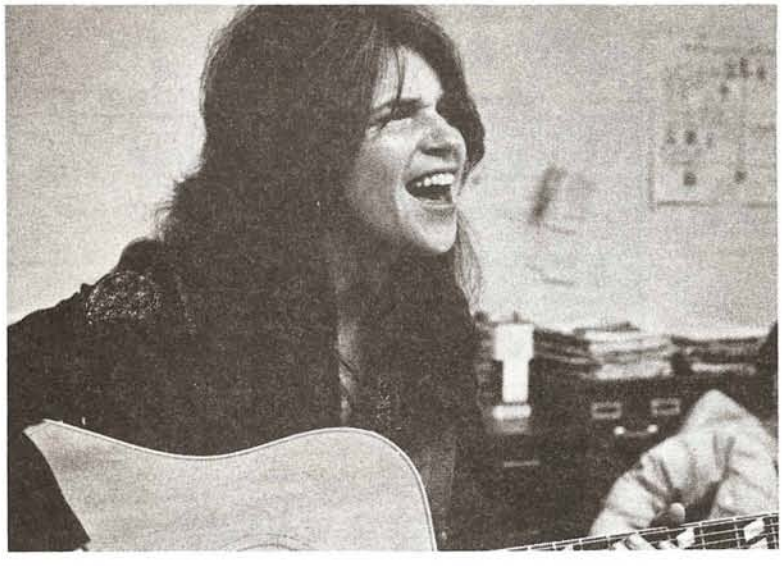
Jerome Smith and Johnny Elvis completed the program. Jerome is a member of Baraboo, a country rock band appearing throughout the midwest, and a fine musician. Johnny Elvis had the girls screaming with his excellent impression of Elvis Presley.

Along with the music, the monthly Community Raffle drawing was held with neighborhood resident George Schmidt the lucky winner of the $100 first prize, and many others winning additional prizes. For all an enormous spaghetti dinner was prepared by Cottrell Mosely and Pedro Martinez, and numerous delicious cakes were brought by community residents. With this the eventful day was rounded off.□

Next month's Country Music Sunday and Raffle will be held on November 21 at the Fred Hampton Memorial Hall, 1222 W. Wilson. Featured entertainment by Bev Grant and "The Human Condition," plus other top bands. Call 769-2085 for more information.

Note: Any band desiring to play at the Country Music Sunday please contact Kim at the above number.□

Bev Grant and "The Human Condition"



"Bev Grant and 'The Human Condition' belong to us: those of us who want change, need change, and are willing to look honestly at both ourselves and the world outside to get change."

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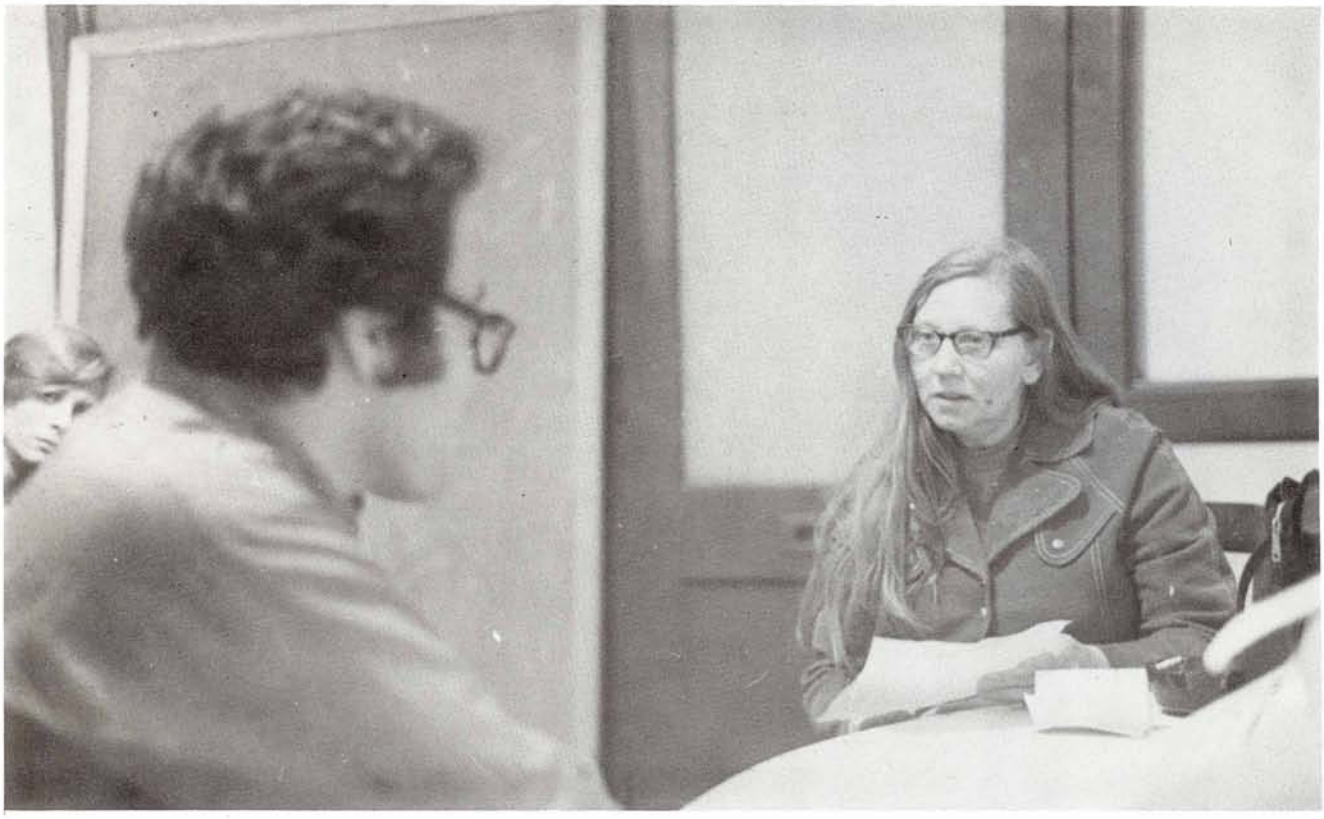

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